



FARM LABOR WAGE BOARD

Major Turnout for Hearings

By Steve Ammerman
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The farming community turned out in a big for the first three wage board hearings that are looking into lowering the 60-hour overtime threshold for farmworkers.

More than 200 people registered

to testify. Because of the turnout, the last two hearings on Jan. 18 and 20 went more than four hours long with each person's testimony limited to just three minutes. So many people signed up that the wage board plans to hold a fourth hearing on Friday, Jan. 28, after Grassroots goes to print.

Those testifying were more than

two-to-one in favor of keeping the threshold at 60. Farmers spoke of their uncompetitive situation that a 40-hour threshold would put them in, forcing them to cap hours for their employees to control higher labor costs. In turn, they described

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NYS GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Gov. Kathy Hochul

State of the State Address Includes Support for Agriculture

By Jeff Williams
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Gov. Kathy Hochul delivered her first State of the State address in early January and outlined some bold plans for the coming year – especially for agriculture. This is the first time in many years that agriculture was a major focus of the annual speech.

In her speech, the Governor outlined broad spending plans for the farm industry in the state, including:

- Doubling minimum wage Farm Workforce Retention Tax Credit
- Expanding the Investment Tax Credit for farms
- Establishing a new refundable tax credit for farms to offset the cost of OT on farms
- Increasing funding for ABCD Child Care Centers
- Moving the school lunch program to the Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Funding for farm market resiliency and expansion
- Renewing an upstate/downstate effort on food procurement
- Funding Nourish-NY
- Expanding funding for the Climate Resiliency Farming program
- Establishing a BIPOC Farmer program
- Expanding SNAP/EBT for CSA's, farmstands and markets
- Creating Grown and Certified grant program

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SPECIAL/PROPAGATE VENTURES

The Propagate Ventures team, from left, Ethan Steinberg, CEO/co-founder; Ranan Sokoloff, ag project manager; Jeremy Kaufman, COO/co-founder; Lisa Storey, senior software engineer; Mandy St. Hilaire, project resource manager; Audrey Epp Schmidt, director of business development; Savannah Baron, senior software engineer; John Burkhardt, director of software); Harry Greene (CIO/co-founder).

Propagate Ventures

A New, Sustainable Approach to Integrating Agroforestry into Mainstream Agriculture

By Lindsay Wickham
lwagner@nyfb.org

Propagate Ventures, featured in the December issue of *Grassroots* as the new member from Tompkins County, was a semi-finalist in the 2021 American Farm Bureau/Farm Credit Ag Innovation Challenge. They traveled to Atlanta for the AFBF Annual Meeting and the finals of the competition against nine other start-up businesses that

are also pushing the envelope for ag innovation and development across the country.

Unfortunately, the company did not place in the competition. Fortunately, they "belong" to us, and we couldn't be prouder to have them represent NYFB, as they are a unique business with a very admirable goal and direction that looks at the big picture of not only U.S. agriculture and agroforestry, but the planet and food system as one entity. As

stewards of the land, Propagate Ventures is keeping agriculture sustainable for many generations to come.

Ethan Steinberg and Jeremy Kaufman came out of the University of Miami (Ohio) where they met on the second day of their college careers on a disc golf course.

After college, they worked with start-up businesses and other

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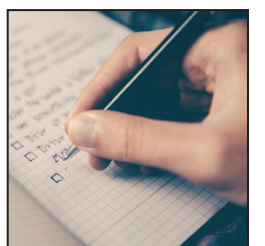
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NYFB State Lobby Day Going Virtual Again for 2022

The New York Farm Bureau State Lobby Day is once again going virtual in 2022. The Legislative Office Building is currently closed to visitors and the Capitol has restrictions on visitor access. We are very hopeful for in-person lobby day and Taste of New York reception celebration next year.

That said, our lobby day activities will look much the same even though legislative meetings will take place via Zoom. New York Farm Bureau will be holding a virtual Leaders’ Forum with invited guests, including Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committee Chairs, Michelle Hinchey, and Donna Lupardo, along with comments by Richard Ball, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets. This event will take place at noon on Monday Feb. 28.

While the forum will be open to all members, a legislative briefing will also be held during this event to bring lobby day meeting attendees up to speed on priority issues, legislation on the move and agricultural budget needs.

Virtual meetings with local and “adopted” urban legislators, set up by county Farm Bureaus and regional offices, will primarily take place the first two weeks of March. If you wish to be included in these meetings, please contact your county Farm Bureau president or regional staff.

A post-meeting Zoom debrief session has been scheduled for members on March 17 at noon to provide members with the opportunity to speak with Public Policy staff to share information gained at legislative meetings and request follow-up on specific issues discussed at meetings.

Zoom links will be provided for all meetings prior to the event.

-Staff reports



SPECIAL/AMANDA FARNSWORTH

AFBF People’s Choice Winner Awarded Many Purina Dinners

Congratulations to lorek, owned by New York Farm Bureau member Amanda Farnsworth, named People’s Choice Pup in the American Farm Bureau Federation Farm Dog of the Year contest. The contest celebrates farm dogs that work alongside farmers and ranchers as they sustainably produce nutritious food for families and their pets across America. Rounding up livestock and chasing off predators are among the many tasks performed by farm dogs. lorek was the Northeast District winner and runner-up to the overall farm dog of the year. lorek wins bragging rights in the social media contest, a year’s supply of Pro-Plan dog food and other Purina products. Amanda is the owner of Cherry Hill Training Center in Honeoye Falls, NY.

Wegner Enlists in Air National Guard

Emma Wegner, NYFB’s Safety Group 486 Customer Service Representative, is currently on military leave from her job until spring of 2023. She enrolled in the Air National Guard and began basic training in Texas in early January. She will later continue her specialized training and service as an Aircraft Loadmaster.

Emma explained what she’ll be doing will the National Guard:

“I enlisted in the Air Force’s Air National Guard on June 30, 2021 with my home base being the 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, NY. My job will be an Aircraft Loadmaster. My main responsibilities will be loading and off loading aircraft functions and performing pre-flight and post-flight preparations of aircraft and aircraft systems. This job specialty computes weight and balance and other mission-specific qualification duties. The loadmaster provides for the safety and comfort of passengers and troops, and the security of cargo, mail, and baggage during flight. I will also conduct cargo and personnel airdrops. Not only will I be a part of the small percentage of airmen who are a part of the flight crew, but with my job specifically I will be a part of the 9% of females who hold this position within the Air Force.

At the 109th Airlift wing they fly the world’s only ski-equipped LC-130’s, called Skibirds, as well as traditional C-130 Wheelbirds. The main federal missions are Polar Airlift, Aeromedical Evacuation, Aerial Port, and Field Hospital contingencies. They have the responsibility of flying missions for the National Science Foundation-led United States Antarctic Program.

During the spring and summer, they fly training missions out of Kangerlussuaq airport in Greenland. From there they fly onto the Arctic Ice Cap, transporting materials and scientific researchers to remote locations where they conduct research. During the fall and winter, they fly similar missions out of McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

They also fly traditional airlift and airdrop missions. Like other National Guard units, the 109th also provides assistance to civil authorities dur-



EMMA WEGNER/NYFB STAFF

Emma’s home base is 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, NY, where she will be trained for several months on how to perform her duties as a Loadmaster the world’s only ski-equipped LC-130s (Skibirds).

ing emergencies, natural or man-made disasters within New York State.

Basic training will take place in San Antonio for seven-and-a-half weeks. After that I begin my specific job training. I will remain at Lackland Air Force Base for two additional months completing the air crew fundamentals and basic loadmaster courses. I will then be stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas for four months focusing on courses specifically geared towards being a Loadmaster on C130s.

Once that is completed, I will be sent to Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington for survival, evasion, resistance and escape training as well as emergency parachute and water survival training for around two weeks.

I will then return to my home base in Scotia where I will be trained for several months on how to perform my duties as a Loadmaster on the LC-130’s (Skibirds).”

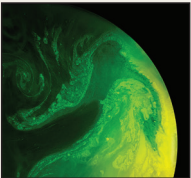
We admire and appreciate Emma’s initiative and service to our country and look forward to her return to NYFB in 2023.

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Historic 190th Annual Ag Society Forum Focuses on Growing a Greener Planet Page 6



Seed, Scion, and Cutting Exchange in Watertown

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County will host a Seed, Scion, and Cutting Exchange on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m.-noon at the CCE office, 203 North Hamilton St., Watertown. There will be more than 200 free packets of locally collected seeds. The event will include an educational session on seed saving.

Attendees are encouraged to bring seeds, scions, and cuttings to trade with others. Seeds should be packaged in small envelopes and labeled with the plant species and variety.

This is a free event, but registration is required. Please contact Sue Gwise at sjg42@cornell.edu or 315-788-8450 to register.

Meat, Milk Markets Discussed at AFBF Annual Convention

Staff reports

Farmer and rancher delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 103rd Convention last month in Atlanta adopted policies to guide the organization’s work in 2022. Key topics ranged from milk pricing and beef market transparency to urban agriculture.

“Delegates from all 50 state Farm Bureaus and Puerto Rico came together to demonstrate the power of grassroots leadership,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

“The policies set forth will guide Farm Bureau in its mission to advocate for farmers and ranchers and build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber and renewable fuel for our entire nation and world.”

Delegates also re-elected AFBF President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal for their fourth terms.

Long-standing frustration over imbalances in the meat industry led to calls for greater transparency in livestock markets.

As farmers’ labor struggles continue, delegates approved additional policies that build on existing AFBF policies regarding the need for employee stabilization and reforms to the guestworker program.

Delegates voted to bring more transparency to the federal milk pricing system. Several changes to policy include support for more a more consistent format for milk checks and a review and audit of the producer price differential on milk. Delegates also called for USDA to publish resources that show how each Federal Milk Marketing Order operates and differs by region.

Delegates updated policy on bio-fuels to include renewable diesel. The addition recognizes the innovation and potential that sustainable biofuels play in providing environmental benefits while creating opportunities for America’s farmers.



SPECIAL/REBECCA COLNAR

NYFB Vice President Eric Ooms and President David Fisher served as New York delegates at AFBF discussing and voting on national public policy resolutions during the AFBF business session.

As farmers and ranchers continue to increase their reliance on digital technologies, delegates voted to support raising the standard for federal broadband projects to be at least 100 mbps for both uploads and downloads.

Recognizing the growth of urban agriculture and importance of ensuring the success of all forms of agriculture, delegates voted to create new policy to support its continuation and acknowledge its economic contributions.

Many of these issues were discussed during a meeting between USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and the state presidents, including NYFB’s David Fisher. Vilsack shared his thoughts on broadband deployment, trade negotiations, and investments in livestock processing capabilities. Vilsack also addressed

the prospect of climate-smart commodities.

“Listening to Farm Bureau and listening to those in agriculture, we know that it’s important to establish a partnership in this effort [to create climate-smart commodities],” Secretary Vilsack said. “This is not something that’s top-down, this is really a bottom-up effort.

“We know that it has to be voluntary, and it has to be incentive-based. It can’t be regulated,” Vilsack continued.

During a recorded message to convention attendees, President Joe Biden expressed his appreciation for farmers and ranchers and highlighted the administration’s priorities related to the Packers and Stockyards Act, infrastructure improvements and promoting fair competition in agricultural markets.

New York Farm Bureau was recognized during opening ceremony for receiving all four state Awards of Excellence in the categories of Advocacy, Coalitions and Partnerships, Engagement and Outreach, and Leadership and Business Development

Broome County Farm Bureau members Judi Whittaker and Eric Winsor received the County Activities of Excellence Award for the county Farm Bureau’s program partnering with local emergency services to offer free training on farm accident response.

President Duvall presented the pair with their award on the IDEAg-Trade Show floor where BCFB had a booth highlighting their program to convention goers.

NYFB CEO Elizabeth Dribusch also took part in a workshop and panel discussion highlighting NYFB’s successful membership engagement efforts.



AFBF

AFBF President Zippy Duvall presents the County Activities of Excellence Award to Judi Whittaker and Eric Winsor of Broome County Farm Bureau at AFBF Annual Convention last month in Atlanta.

NYFB Policy Successes at Annual AFBF Convention

NYFB delegates at the 2022 American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Meeting in Atlanta found success in advocating for the following NYFB resolutions to be included in the 2022 AFBF National Policy Book. The policies cover a broad swath of issues and topics that impact New York farmers are the federal level. A copy of the 2022 National Policy Book can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-policy-book>.

126 / Maritime Transportation
We support an exemption from the Jones Act requirements for businesses engaged in the production and harvesting of agricultural products.

205 / Maple
(We support) The modernizing and aligning of the Standards of Identity of pure Maple Syrup for U.S. and Canada.

223 / Federal Marketing Orders
We oppose the dissolution of a federal order eliminating grade, phytosanitary standards, inspection requirements and import regulations.

239 / National Farm Policy (General Issues)
(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.

340 / Food Quality and Safety
In accordance with the Food Safety Modernization Act, all “kill-step” facilities should be considered a qualified end-user.

359 / Organic Standards
(We support) Issuance and enforcement of the National Organic Program Origin of Livestock Rule.

462 / Role of USDA
We support re-structuring federal agriculture policy and programs so that all agricultural producers, regardless of the population density of the area in which their farm is located, be eligible for a broader swath of federal grant funding.

462 / Role of USDA
(NRCS should) Be required to provide cost share funds for contracted conservation practices that fail, through no fault of the producer, within the lifespan of the practice.

503 / Climate Change
(We oppose) Any and all emissions taxes on livestock.



Grassroots

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THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

A NYFB Priority is Elevating Member Education

Farmers are always learning. As we grow crops or our businesses, it is helpful to have the best information available to inform our decisions.

We are lucky in this state to have a number of educational resources through Cornell Cooperative Extension and our strong universities and colleges. They often provide boots on the ground info with research to back it up that helps us with our soil, animal nutrition, and business practices. But there is more that we may need in order to see the big picture when it comes to farming.

This is why New York Farm Bureau’s State Board made education a priority in our new strategic plan developed over many months last year. We want to give our members regular opportunities to gain insight into the agricultural industry, the rules and regulations that are often complicated to navigate and hear from the experts across many different fields. Our members have needs as diverse as their farms, which is why we are seeking to offer a wide range of programming.

For starters, you may have no-



David Fisher
NYFB President

ticed that starting last fall, we begin hosting monthly webinars featuring all kinds of topics ranging from transportation and workers compensation insurance needs to labor laws and communication tips when speaking with consumers. We are also offering special training sessions for our county leaders and tools to increase member engagement. And this is just the beginning.

In the coming months, we have a long list of topics that we will be bringing to you. One of the biggest issues facing our industry is solar. New York Farm Bureau is partnering with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau as well as Cornell and Penn State to bring you a four-part webinar series on the

topic of solar leases. It will kick off this month and run through March. Other topics in the lineup include what rights do farmers have if law enforcement has received a complaint about your animals, which is of greater concern these days with animal activist activities targeting livestock. Also, what services does the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets provide that you may not know about? We will take a deep dive with the department to share what you need to know.

We will also be bringing lawmakers together with Commissioner Ball to provide you an opportunity hear firsthand what is happening in the legislature and state government that could impact your farms, for better or worse. The forum later this month will be a lead up to our lobby day activities that will once again happen virtually as the state closed off legislative offices to the public. Even so, our public policy team and field staff are working together to make sure

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THE ZIPLINE

Farmers Making Their Voices Heard on WOTUS Rule

Water is critical to our families and our farms. It breathes life into our crops and produces forage for animals on our rangelands. It is a priority for farmers and ranchers to ensure the water we rely on is clean because safe, clean water is critical to all life.

Farmers and ranchers are stepping up to partner with their communities to protect our water. Farmers have increased the use of buffer strips to prevent excess fertilizer from reaching waterways. They’re using new technologies to filter water as it drains beneath our fields and continually work to beef up other clean water protections.

Last year, officials at the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers announced they would rewrite the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, continuing a near decade long back and forth that has left farmers and small business owners scratching their heads. In 2015, the WOTUS rule was rewritten



Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

and federal courts blocked its implementation in more than half of the states because it was a clear overreach by the federal government. In 2020, the rule became the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which provided clearer rules while ensuring clean water.

If you’ve ever had to deal with red tape from our federal government, you know that working through the stack of paperwork and fees that come with applying for federal permits often requires lawyers and consultants. The

2015 rule would have prevented farmers from moving forward on climate smart farming practices and other advancements that ensure farms remain viable and vibrant.

We must help policymakers and the public understand the impact of irresponsible regulation, tying the hands of the very people stocking our pantries.

Unfortunately, warning lights point to the Biden Administration heading down a similar path as the 2015 WOTUS rule. While EPA Administrator Regan committed to a robust dialogue about the potential effects of the new rule, the agency seems to be moving forward even as they ask stakeholders to set up regional meetings.

The EPA claims the new rule will have no impact on any of America’s small businesses. That simply isn’t true. The proposal the EPA

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GUEST OPINIONS

An Emerging Coalition in Support of New York’s Horse Racing Industry

From an outsider’s perspective, New York’s horse racing industry may only consist of the Thoroughbred and Standardbred racetrack facility operators across the state. However, to individuals in and supported by the equine industry, we all know that’s an incorrect point of view.

The horse racing industry is far reaching and includes owners, breeders, trainers, veterinarians, blacksmiths and extends to many labor unions that support racing operations. According to a study published by the American Horse Council in 2018, horse racing in New York State is responsible for 19,000 jobs and more than \$3 billion in annual economic impact. In addition, New York’s Equine industry is the state’s second-largest agribusiness operating in every county in the state.

To relay the true message of how expansive and impactful the Horse Racing industry is in New York across all sectors, the We Are NY Horse Racing coalition was formed. Comprised of small



Najja Thompson
Executive Director,
New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc.

businesses, trade unions, non-profits, and benevolence organizations We Are NY Horse Racing (nyhorseracing.com) works to educate New Yorkers about the importance of the sport and industry to the state’s economy.

As executive director of New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc., we are proud to be a co-founding member of We Are NY Horse Racing. I am also happy to report that the New York Farm Bureau has joined our coalition to support several activities moving forward including events, paid media and other efforts directly related to educating and informing New Yorkers about the importance of horse racing to the New

A healthy and well-supported horse racing industry will lead to productive stallion farms, boarding and training facilities and most importantly jobs.

York economy.

Our foremost challenge is reaching out to Farm Bureau members like yourself who can offer support to our coalition and New York’s horse racing industry by having your farms and vendors join. As the legislative session in Albany is currently underway with Gov. Kathy Hochul leading the state, the majority of our work is relaying the importance of our industry to state legislatures.

A healthy and well-supported horse racing industry will lead to productive stallion farms, boarding and training facilities and most importantly jobs. As the gambling industry in New York continues to grow with the implementation of mobile sports wagering, it is crucial the horse racing industry has a voice to relay its importance and intrinsic

value. The equine industry itself preserves 1.3 million acres of precious farmland and accounts for over 42,000 full-time jobs.

Unfortunately, there are fringe groups and extremists who would like to see the end of racing and by extension New York’s equine industry. What these extremists do not know is the care each of you give your horses daily, the efforts in safety and aftercare our industry have made for our equine athletes, and the numerous jobs and businesses that are supported by horse racing.

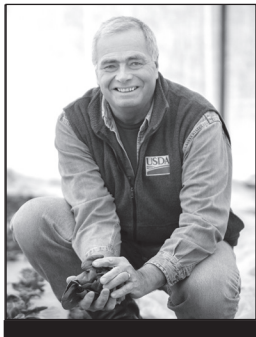
Please take the time to visit and share the We Are NY Horse Racing website nyhorseracing.com. If your farm or vendor would like to become member in support of the coalition, contact me at nthompson@nytbreeders.org.

Building a Brighter Future for NY Agriculture

I am honored and excited to again serve as the State Executive Director for USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in New York State; a position I held in the Obama/Biden administration. During that time, I focused on the utilization of USDA programs in ways that benefit the tremendous agricultural diversity in New York— such as expanding the commodities and equipment eligible under the Farm Storage Facility Loan program.

Originally designed for grain, this program now supports everything from milk and cheese, to fruits and vegetables, and meat to maple. Basically, everything we can produce here in New York is covered with this low interest financing program for storage facilities and equipment.

Now we face new challenges. The



Jim Barber
State Executive Director,
USDA Farm Service Agency

last two years of ongoing pandemic have not been easy for anyone, including our FSA staff. Yet, they were there to deliver more than \$353 million in federal program payments and loans to New York farmers during fiscal year 2021.

New York agriculture benefits greatly from the tireless efforts of our dedicated employees and locally elected County Committees.

I understand how important the pandemic programs have been

in keeping our farmers going in these challenging times. Challenge also brings opportunity, and many have been able to adapt their business plans to overcome these challenges.

We’ve also experienced the vulnerabilities in the food system. I’m excited to rejoin USDA at a time when we are investing in regional and local foods and looking to make better markets for producers and consumers. Our work moving forward will support American agriculture with innovation and development of new markets, and ensure a fair, competitive, and resilient food system.

As we build back our food system, we must focus on the future of agriculture and the next generation of farmers. USDA plays a vital role in providing opportunity

and support to beginning farmers. Particularly since beginning farmers have not benefited from generations of family farm ownership.

Additionally, they often engage in more non-conventional farm systems. We at FSA must help ensure there is support for diversity, not just of commodities and practices, but even more importantly, diversity of our farmers, both rural and urban. To support this critical mission, the 2018 Farm Bill instituted Beginning Farmer Teams in every state. I look forward to working with this team of multi-agency USDA staff to better serve the new and beginning farmers of our state.

Looking toward that future, we

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ZIPLINE

From Page 4

and Army Corps of Engineers have presented would significantly expand the land mass regulated by the federal government and lead to a costly labyrinth of permitting requirements that small businesses aren’t equipped to navigate.

Although EPA has left me wondering about their sincerity in working with farmers, I’m grateful that the Small Business Admin-

istration seems to be genuinely listening. We worked with SBA to set up meetings where federal officials heard directly from property owners about potential impacts of a new rule. Last week, the agency heard from farmers and small businesses involved in agriculture.

James Henderson, Colorado Farm Bureau vice president, joined the video call from a field he farms. He was standing in a grass waterway. James said he hadn’t seen water flowing through it in years. But, under the proposed rule, EPA could classify it as a regulated

ephemeral stream, which means it has flowing water only during and after it rains.

The example James shared was powerful. That’s how we’ll make an impact as the Administration works to rewrite the WOTUS rule.

We must help policymakers and the public understand the impact of irresponsible regulation, tying the hands of the very people stocking our pantries. And we must remain persistent in our effort to make sure regulations that keep our water clean also respect farmers, ranchers, and small business

owners.

You can make your voice heard today by visiting fb.org/wotus. When I called on farmers and ranchers to respond to this action alert during our AFBF Convention, over 1,800 farmers and ranchers answered the call in less than 36 hours.

I hope you’ll answer the call, too, and tell the EPA why we need clear rules for clean water. We stand ready to engage in an honest and meaningful dialogue with policymakers and all stakeholders. That’s the Farm Bureau way.

Historic 190th Annual Ag Society Forum Focuses on Growing a Greener Planet

NYS Agricultural Society

Each January, industry leaders gather at the NYS Agricultural Society Annual Meeting and Forum to discuss priority issues and to recognize peers for outstanding achievement. At the historic 190th Annual Forum on Thursday, Jan. 6, stakeholders met at the Syracuse OnCenter to discuss growing a greener planet and opportunities created by NY’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). This is one of the most ambitious climate laws in the world and will set standards to achieve net-zero emissions, increase renewable energy usage, and ensure climate justice. Also featured at the 2022 Forum was the State of Agriculture Address presented by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball.

“The State of NY has aggressive, nation leading climate goals, with some deliverables due within the decade,” said NYS Ag Society President Mark Modzeleski. “Our membership – ranging from producers, suppliers, consultants, advocates to lenders - needs to be part of the conversation that will help develop sensible rules of the road to decrease carbon and methane output. Despite pandemic pressures, the Forum was able to attract thought leaders on the state and national level to discuss climate action. There is so much to learn, and opportunities to engage and innovate.”

Morning Keynote

A third-generation grower/shipper from Southern California, AG Kawamura is a former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. “My family business has changed greatly over 40 years,” said Kawamura. “The availability of water, land and labor are principal drivers. The types of crops grown in my region are changing. The abundance of citrus groves in Orange County are no longer. We now look for available property in many unlikely places like military bases and vacant residential property. Anywhere that will grow weeds can grow crops with the right infrastructure. Agriculture is not broken here. But we need to be more collaborative and innovative in how we produce food. We can get a lot more accomplished by enlisting the support of a broad base of stakeholders.”

Morning and Afternoon Panelists

Suzanne Hunt of Hunt Country Vineyards discussed how the wine and grape industry has been an early adopter of new technologies and innovative growing practices to help mitigate the impact of climate change on small fruit. She is seventh generation on her family operation located in Branchport, NY. Suzanne and moderator John Noble of Noblehurst Farms, a Western NY dairy, are members of the Agriculture and Forestry Panel of the NY Climate Action Council. The Council is tasked with

developing a draft scoping plan that will serve as an initial framework for how NYS will implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. For Hunt, finding ways to finance required changes on the farm level will be key to making critical progress. Also participating in the morning panel was Brian Steinmuller of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets who encouraged Forum attendees to comment on the draft scoping plan during the 120-day public comment period, beginning Jan. 1, 2022. Six public hearings across the State, both in-person and virtual, will take place to encourage broad-base discussion.

Afternoon panelists focused on emerging opportunities brought on by new technology and collaborations. Speakers included Dr. Tristan Brown of SUNY ESE, Stephanie Castle of American Farmland Trust, and Tinia Pina of Renable, Inc. A self-proclaimed “techie”, Tinia is a principal in a Glens Falls-based research project that is measuring the effectiveness of utilizing vacant city property as an in-door farm to grow desirable food products. “We hope to deliver on multiple goals,” said Pina. “Increasing local food production, encouraging downtown revitalization, reducing energy use and accommodating a changing workforce all come into play.”

A full recording of the day’s program, including Commissioner Richard Ball’s State of Agriculture Address, is available for NYS Ag Society members and interested parties upon request. Forum sponsors include the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, CALS at Cornell University, Farm Credit East, and the NYS Ag Society Foundation.

Distinguished Service Citation Winner Patrick Hooker is One of Eight Honorees

The Distinguished Service Citation, sponsored by New York Farm Bureau, is awarded annually to an individual who has provided exceptional service to the agricultural industry, improving the industry’s image among the non-farming community, and fostering support, progress and success in NY’s diverse agricultural arena. Recently retired as NYS Deputy Secretary of Food and Agriculture, Pat Hooker had a 37-year career in state government working in a variety of capacities within the NYS Assembly, Senate and Department of Agriculture and Markets. A full interview with Patrick Hooker and Hans Kunze, award chair, can be found on the NYS Ag Society’s Facebook page.

Established in 1832, the mission of the NYS Agricultural Society is to build a robust future for NY’s food, agricultural and natural resource industries by providing networking and educational opportunities for its strongest advocates, decision-makers, and aspiring leaders.



The NYS Agricultural Society presented Pat Hooker with the 2022 Distinguished Service Citation at the 190th Annual Agricultural Forum on January 6, 2022. New York Farm Bureau sponsored the award which recognizes individuals who have provided distinctive service to the agricultural industry. Hooker recently retired after a 37-year career in Albany as the NYS Deputy Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

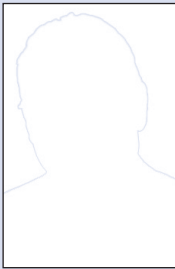
Commissioner Ball Delivers State of Agriculture Address at Annual State Agricultural Society Forum

NYSDAM

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball delivered the State of Agriculture Address Jan. 6 at the 190th Annual New York State Agricultural Society Forum. The Forum, which is traditionally the oldest and largest meeting of its kind in the state, took place at the OnCenter in Syracuse.

In keeping with this year’s forum theme of “Growing a Greener Planet,” the Commissioner spoke about the many actions that New York State’s agricultural industry is taking to mitigate the effects of climate change, including through the Climate Action Council’s Agricultural and Forestry Advisory Panel, the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program, and more.

“New York State is without a doubt a leader in fighting climate change



Richard Ball

and agriculture is committed to being a part of the solution. With this funding commitment, we can reach more farms and make an even great impact as environmental stewards,”

said Commissioner Ball.

He also addressed the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on New York State agriculture and the State’s efforts to ensure a strengthened food supply chain through several programs and initiatives, such as the Nourish New York program, the Restaurant Resiliency Program, and the Food Supply Resiliency Report. Ball provided a look back at the challenges of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

BARBER

From Page 5

must recognize the impact that climate change will have on all of us. I am a longtime advocate for the role agriculture can and will play in mitigating climate change and this year USDA will build on its progress to integrate climate change into programs and services as we work to support farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, partners, and rural communities in tackling climate change. FSA’s conservation programs help protect and restore America’s farms, ranches, and grasslands while making them more resilient to threats and enhancing natural resources. Last year, in New York, FSA invested more than \$2 million toward conserving and improving

soil, water, and wildlife resources through the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) annual payments and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual and cost share payments.

As a farmer, and with my experience at FSA, I feel well-prepared to work with New York farmers to fully utilize USDA programs and loans. I am dedicated to supporting our FSA employees in New York who strive to deliver programs and loans to best serve our farm customers. Together we can build a bright future for agriculture — a future that provides continued service to all agricultural producers, ensures diversity, and provides support for beginning farmers, and our planet.

Jim Barber was appointed the State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA New York Farm Service Agency (FSA) in December 2021.



NYFB Collegiate Discussion Meet Contest Held Virtually

Four students from SUNY Morrisville, NYFB's newest Collegiate Chapter did not let the pandemic interfere with their interest in participating in the Collegiate Discussion Meet. They agreed to participate in a virtual discussion meet contest sponsored by the NYFB Young Farmers & Ranchers State Committee.

The contestants were:

Brennan Dailey from Yates County is the current President of the Collegiate FFA/Farm Bureau (CFFA/FB) Chapter. He is an Agricultural Business major and will graduate in August 2022. He plans a future career as high school agriculture teacher.

Cuyler Reynolds from Rensselaer County is a junior majoring in agriculture business. Cuyler is interested in agronomy sales as well as agricultural finance.

Janet Martens from Yates County is working on her associate degree in Dairy Science and a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business. Janet is the current Vice President of the CFF/FB Chapter.

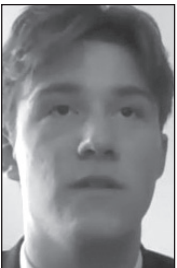
Reilly Wolfanger from Wyoming County is studying Agriculture Business at Morrisville. She is very involved in the Dairy Club and the CFFA/FB Chapter.

These collegiate members were coached by their SUNY Morrisville professors: Sheila Marshman and Scott Colby. We really appreciate the time these advisors spent working with the students to get them prepared.

The Discussion Meet is an exercise in cooperative problem solving involving a moderator, timekeeper, and several contestants who exchange ideas and viewpoints on a given topic. There are five pre-determined topics which the students research for the contest. The topic for each discussion round is randomly drawn from that list and the contestants are informed which topic they will be talking about just prior to the round. The topics discussed by the students included: recruiting and increasing participation of young farmer members, proactively promoting good mental health for themselves and their communities, and how Farm Bureau can help farmers continue to increase their efficiency in use of valuable resources and transition to "green energy" on the farm. The two additional topics were: how can Farm Bureau policy support easing governmental regulations to ensure the long-term viability for local animal processing facilities and how to create a more preventative approach to farm safety.



Brennan Dailey



Cuyler Reynolds



Janet Martens



Reilly Wolfanger

Participating in a virtual discussion can be challenging but the students did fantastic interacting with each other and carrying out the discussion. The judges had a tough job but, in the end, Reilly Wolfanger was named the winner. As winner, Reilly will receive a scholarship award. Unfortunately, Reilly is unable to represent NYFB at the AFBF Collegiate Discussion Meet Contest so Brennan Dailey, who placed second will compete at the national contest which will be held Feb. 25-28 at the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference in Louisville, Ky.

Complete information is available at www.ECFair.org or follow The Erie County Fair on Facebook for monthly updates. The 2022 Erie County Fair is scheduled for Aug. 10-22.

-Erie County Agricultural Society

Erie County Fair Announces New Opportunities for Youth Exhibitors, \$18K to be Awarded

HAMBURG, N.Y. — The Erie County Agricultural Society announced the inaugural youth livestock expo (YLE) scheduled to take place during the 2022 Erie County Fair.

The event was created with goals of utilizing the facility to its fullest extent, providing the youth another opportunity to show, bringing clout to the fair livestock shows, and to encourage youth to participate in market projects. The Youth Livestock Expo will be open to exhibitors ages 4-21 from the United States and Canada. The expo will encom-

pass the four market animal species (beef, hog, lamb and goat) and will require exhibitors to participate in at least one contest outside of the show ring. Through nationally recognized judges, more than \$18,000 in total premiums for market and showmanship divisions will be awarded.

Complete information is available at www.ECFair.org or follow The Erie County Fair on Facebook for monthly updates. The 2022 Erie County Fair is scheduled for Aug. 10-22.

Employment Outlook is Promising for New College Graduates in Agriculture

USDA

A new report, released in December by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Purdue University, shows a strong job demand for new college graduates with degrees in agricultural programs. U.S. college graduates can expect approximately 59,400 job opportunities annually between 2020 and 2025. This reflects a 2.6 percent growth from the previous five years. Employer demand will exceed the supply of available graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture-related fields.

"Future development of our complex global food system requires the brightest minds from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures and disciplines working together to solve the challenges before us," said Parag Chitnis, acting director of USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. "This report shows that students across America who are studying food, agriculture and related sciences to take on these challenges have made a sound career choice and will graduate into a strong and growing job market in the years ahead."

The preparation of the report began before the coronavirus pandemic when global socio-economic conditions looked much differently than they do at the release of this report.

"It was extremely challenging to

project the success and perseverance of current college students, let alone the employment opportunities that await new graduates during a global pandemic," said Marcos Fernandez, principal investigator on the project and professor in the College of Agriculture at Purdue University.

Graduates earning degrees with emphasis in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources and the environment (FARNRE) will account for 61% of the annual supply pool. Most of the employment opportunities will be in business and management at 42 percent and another 31 percent in science and engineering. Openings anticipated in education, communication and government will make up 14 percent, and 13 percent will be in food and biomaterials production with nearly 92 percent of those jobs going to FARNRE majors.

"Diversity and inclusiveness are strategic for the future workforce," said Allan Goecker, co-principal investigator and emeritus staff of Purdue University. "For the food, agriculture, renewable resources and environment sector to fully address the needs of the United States, it must reflect the population it serves."

"A more diverse and inclusive workforce will support a more innovative and creative agricultural industry for the future," Goecker said.

New York Farm Bureau offers FREE Student Memberships

New York Farm Bureau provides a complimentary student membership to High School Juniors and Seniors who are involved in FFA and/or 4-H as well as collegiate students who have agricultural majors.



STUDENT MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop Leadership Skills
- Network With Other Agriculturalists
- Community Service Through NYFB's Partnership With Feeding America's "Harvest For All" Program
- Promote Agriculture in Your Community
- Compete in State & National competitive events through our Young Farmer program (18-35 years old)
- Membership & Leadership look great on your resume!!

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Promotion & Education

By Patti Dugan
pdugan@nyfb.org

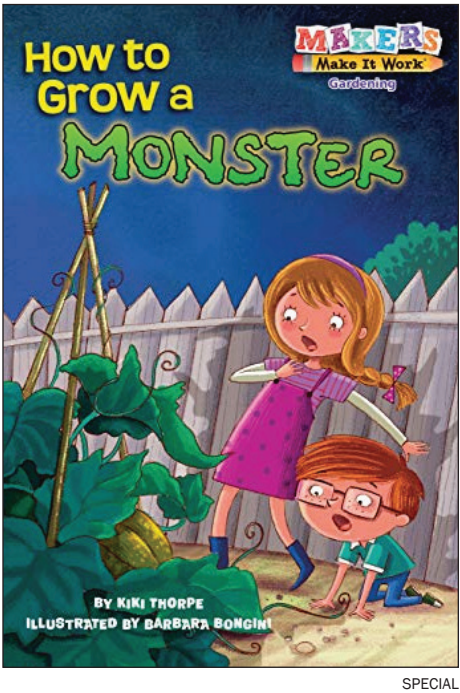
AFB Foundation Partners with Nationwide to Foster Ag Education

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture is making agriculture education resources more accessible to classrooms across the country. Thanks to generous support from Nationwide, the Ag Foundation opened applications this week for education grants that will empower educators with more accurate information about agriculture.

Three hundred educators will be selected to receive educator packs that include one copy of the Ag Foundation's 2022 Book of the Year, "How to Grow a Monster," one copy of the accompanying educator guide, and a set of 30 school garden ag mags for educational use.

"The Foundation is excited to get more resources into the hands of educators across the country thanks to this partnership with Nationwide," said Daniel Meloy, executive director of the Ag Foundation. "We hope that these accurate ag lessons blossom into a lifelong love of learning about how food is grown."

"As a company rooted in agriculture, Nationwide recognizes that the future rests within a foundational awareness and understanding of the industry among young people," said Nationwide and AFBFA board member Steve Hirsch. "I'm proud of our support of these teacher grants,



which will further the important task of teaching young people about agriculture. The Foundation's Book of the Year and supporting classroom curriculum are fantastic resources to aid in these efforts."

Educators can apply for the grants through the Ag Foundation's website by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/ag-literacy-grants>.

Applications are due by midnight on Feb. 28, and all applicants will receive notification by March 4, 2022

-AFBF

NYFB Seeking 2022 Scholarship Applicants

New York high school seniors who are graduating and interested in pursuing a career in agriculture can apply for New York Farm Bureau's Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Eligible students can use the financial award for college or advanced training in the skilled trades. Statewide winners can earn up to \$3,000 towards their future education.

Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2022.

For more information, including the online application, go to New York Farm Bureau's website at www.nyfb.org. The scholarship information and web-based application can be found under "Promotion and Education" in the programs section of the website. You can also call the New York Farm Bureau office at 1-800-342-4143 for more information.



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Compliance
Corner

By Lisa Ovitt, Paralegal
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New York Paid Sick Leave: Updates

NOTE: Updates to New York's paid sick leave contained in this article are separate from New York's emergency paid sick leave for COVID-19.

Since Jan. 1, 2021, employers in New York have been required to provide paid sick leave to employees relating to an employee's or an employee's family member's medical needs, or for reasons relating to domestic violence and similar offenses. Release of the initial regulations in December 2020 resulted in a number of questions, and the hope was that the Department of Labor (the Department) would address those issues by amending the regulations. This did not occur. Rather, the Department published 27 comments and responses addressing various parts of the regulations. (See pages 16-18 at <https://tinyurl.com/nys-sick-leave>.)

Available Leave According to Number of Employees

Following is a reminder of the leave available according to the number of employees. The Department has clarified that employers are to count their highest total number of concurrently employed employees nationwide.

- Employers with 0-4 employees and a net annual income of \$1 million or less in the previous tax year:
- Must provide up to 40 hours of unpaid sick leave per calendar year.
 - Employers with 0-4 employees and a net annual income of \$1 million or more in the previous tax year: Must provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per calendar year.
 - Employers with 5 to 99 employees in the previous tax year: Must provide up to 40 hours of paid sick leave per calendar year.
 - Employers of 100 or more employees in the previous tax year:
 - Must provide up to 56 hours of paid sick leave per calendar year.

Frontloading Paid Sick Leave

One of the most pressing questions after release of the regulations was whether employers who frontload the full amount of paid sick leave (PSL) for a year's time period must allow employees to carry over unused leave from year to year. The Department responded that there was no limit on the number of hours to be carried over, and that to im-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NYS Sick Leave:
<https://tinyurl.com/nys-sick-leave1>

NYS Fact Sheet Paid Sick Leave:
<https://tinyurl.com/nys-sick-leave2>

NYS Fact Sheet Paid Sick Leave for Farmworkers:
<https://tinyurl.com/nys-sick-leave3>

pose such a cap would exceed the Department's authority. However, the Department did clarify that employers may give employees the option to be paid out for unused leave at year's end, rather than carry over the unused leave. However, this does not address the long-standing problem of employers being forced to allow employees to carry over leave that, in many cases, cannot be used during the year in which it is carried over due to the employer's ability to place a cap (40 or 56 hours) on the amount of leave an employee can use yearly.

Accrual System

For employers who do not frontload, but use an accrual system, the law provides that employees must receive at least one hour of PSL for every 30 hours worked. Regulations state that when calculating accruals for time worked in increments less than 30 hours, "employers may round accrued leave to the nearest five minutes, or to the nearest one-tenth or quarter of an hour, provided that it will not result, over a period of time, in a failure to provide the proper accrual of leave to employees for all the time they have actually worked." This raised the question of how often employers should reconcile PSL banks to determine the amount of leave available to employees. In response, the Department merely affirmed that incremental leave is required and employers could round the time if they desire.

Mandating Use of PSL to the Exclusion of Other Available Leave

The Department clarifies that employers may not mandate that employees use PSL for a covered reason to the exclusion of other available leave. This means that an employee cannot be forced to use their PSL if the employee instead elects to use

paid time off, vacation, or other applicable time. Whether an employee uses PSL, then, appears to be at the employee's discretion, at least when the employee has other paid leave available that could be used for the absence. The Department does not address if an employer can mandate the use of PSL when the employee is absent for a qualifying reason but has no other applicable paid time off available.

Requiring Notice of Leave; Documentation

The Department declined to allow employers to establish a notice requirement for leave, even when need for leave is foreseeable. Regarding documentation, the Department clarifies that employers may only require documentation when an employee is absent for three or more consecutive shifts, and that such documentation must not contain the disclosure of confidential information. One method of documentation permitted by the final regulations is an attestation from the employee that their reason for leave

qualifies under PSL, and the Department notes that it will publish an attestation template for use. An employer may not deny an employee leave while attempting to confirm the basis for the leave. If, however, the employer discovers the request to be false or fraudulent, disciplinary action may be taken against the employee.

The Department declined to issue commentary on the impacts of collective bargaining agreements, rate of pay, or interactions with federal leave mandates. Questions about these issues, and others, remain. NYFB will keep its members apprised of developments as they occur.

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.



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Agricultural Assessments and an Upcoming Deadline

By Ashley Oeser
aoeser@nyfb.org

An agricultural assessment is a provision under the New York Agricultural Districts Law that allows landowners to apply for, and if approved, receive a reduction in property tax bills, provided the land has met certain criteria. This is done by limiting the property tax assessment of the land if used for an agricultural purpose.

What type of land may qualify for an agricultural assessment?

- Land used in agricultural production such as: cropland, pasture, orchards, vineyards, sugarbush, support land, and crop acreage set aside or retired under federal supply management or soil conservation programs.
- Farm woodland up to 50 acres.
- Land and water used for aquacultural production.
- Land under a structure whereby crops, livestock, and/or livestock products are produced.
- Any posts, wires and trellises used to support production of fruit.

What type of land does not qualify for an agricultural assessment?

- Land associated with the landowner’s residence.
- Farm buildings, residences, or improvements.



UNSPLASH

What are the criteria to apply for an agricultural assessment?

- Seven or more acres of land that were used in the preceding two years for the production and sale of livestock, livestock products, or crops, and
- The annual gross sales of the agricultural products must average \$10,000 or more for the preceding two years.
- If you are a start-up operation with seven or more acres, you may still apply based on your annual gross sales of agricultural products for the businesses first or second year, provided you meet the \$10,000 requirement.

What if the agricultural land is less than seven acres?

- You can still qualify to receive an agricultural assessment if your average annual gross sales equal \$50,000 or more, unless you are a commercial horse boarding operation.

- If you are a start-up operation with less than seven acres, you may still apply based on your annual gross sales of agricultural products for the businesses first or second year, provided you meet \$50,000 in annual gross sales.

What if I have a commercial horse boarding operation?

- You can still qualify if you meet all the following requirements:
- At least seven acres that support your horse boarding business.
 - The business boards at least 10 horses.
 - The business receives \$10,000 or more in gross receipts annually in the preceding two years from either horse boarding fees and/or the production of crops, livestock, and livestock products.
 - For more information, please see the NYFB “Equine-What to Know” Fact Sheet.

Can I still qualify if I rent land?

You are still eligible to receive an agricultural assessment provided you meet the above-listed criteria. However, if the average gross sales value requirement is not met, but you have met other requirements, it may still be eligible with proof of a written agreement of at least five years. You must provide the assessor with either a copy of the lease, or Form RP-305-c, “Agricultural Assessment Written Lease Affidavit for Rented Land” found on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance website. A link is also provided here: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-aa1>.

Who determines whether I am eligible for an agricultural assessment?

Either the assessor or board of assessors where the agricultural assessment application is filed. If your application is denied, you may attend a hearing in May (usually the fourth Tuesday). Confirm with your local assessor as to when “Grievance Day” is.

I meet the criteria for my business, what do I do now?

Landowners must complete and file an application with the assessor.

Here are your next steps:

1.) Go to the County Soil and Water Conservation District Office. The farmland will be classified by soil productivity. You will work with a soil technician to assist you in plotting out the land and calculating the acreage of the various soil groups.

The technician will fill out the form APD-1, or the “Soil Group Worksheet”.

2.) The landowner then takes the Soil Group Worksheet and provides this information to the assessor’s office. The landowner will file an “Application for an Agricultural Assessment” (form RP-305). You must submit this information by the taxable status date, which is usually March 1st in most towns. Check with your assessor to confirm this date.

The link for a first-time application is: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-aa3>

What if my land is not in an agricultural district, can I still qualify?

Yes, your land may still qualify. The requirements are the same as within an agricultural district. However, if the land is outside of an agricultural district, it must remain in agricultural use for eight years or you are to pay a conversion fee for non-agricultural use.

What if farmland was taken out of agricultural production?


If land is taken out of agricultural use within five years of last receiving an agricultural assessment while in an agricultural district, and within eight years of not being in an agricultural district, a payment will be imposed to receive the taxes for converting the farmland. A conversion payment will be equal to five times the taxes saved in the last year the land received an agricultural assessment. Also, interest of 6% per year will be added for each year the land received an agricultural assessment, not to exceed five years. If farmland has been converted, you are to notify your assessor within 90 days. Failure to notify may result in fines.

I just want to renew my application this year. How do I do that?


You must re-apply for an agricultural assessment every year. If you have already filled out a previous agricultural assessment application, and there have not been any changes to your land, you will fill out Form RP-305-r, “Agricultural Assessment Application Renewal” found on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance website. The link to a renewal application is: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-aa5>. This is to be submitted by March 1.

For more information or to receive a copy of the forms, please check with either your local assessor, and/or the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance at <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-tax>.

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.

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Applications open for 2022 AEM Leopold Conservation Award

NYSDAM

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball today recently announced that applications are open for New York State’s 2022 Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Leopold Conservation Award. Presented by the Sand County Foundation, the award honors a farm and its nominating Soil and Water Conservation District for extraordinary achievement in environmental stewardship. The \$10,000 award is provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust (AFT), and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, “A Sand County Almanac,” Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. The Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 23 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation.

Applications for the New York AEM-Leopold Conservation Award are now being accepted, with county Soil and Water Conservation Districts applying on behalf of farms. Eligible candidates successfully incorporate AEM Best Management Practices into the management of the farm, which also assist the landowner in meeting business and environmental goals. Applicants should demonstrate conservation leadership and outreach in the agricultural sector and be an inspiration to other landowners.

John Piotti, AFT President and CEO, said, “As a national sponsor for Sand County Foundation’s Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of farmers, ranchers and forestland owners. At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices, and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three.”

Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer, said, “Recipients of this award are real life examples of conservation-minded agriculture. These hard-working families are essential to our environment, food system, and rural economy.”

The AEM-Leopold Conservation Award Program in New York is made possible thanks to the support of American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Sand County Foundation, the Ida and Robert Gordon Family Foundation, Farm Credit East, New York State Agribusiness Association, USDA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Applications for the New York AEM Leopold Conservation Award must be received by the Department by **May 1, 2022**.

Nominations will be reviewed by an independent panel of conservation leaders. Interested candidates should contact their local county Soil and Water Conservation District to learn more. The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org/Ap-plyLCA.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Audubon New York.

The first New York AEM Leopold Conservation Award recipient, Sang Lee Farms of Peconic, was selected in 2020. The 2021 recipient was Table Rock Farm of Castile.

About the Leopold Conservation Award Program

The Leopold Conservation Award is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. The Sand County Foundation presents the award in California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont). Learn more at www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

About the Sand County Foundation

The Sand County Foundation inspires and empowers a growing number of private landowners to ethically manage natural resources in their care, so future generations have clean and abundant water, healthy soil to support agriculture and forestry, plentiful habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. To learn more about their work, visit www.sand-countyfoundation.org.

About the New York State AEM Award

New York State’s annual Agricultural Environmental Management Award winners are chosen from nominees submitted by county Soil and Water Conservation Districts from around the state. The first Agricultural Environmental Management Award was presented in 2002; prior to that, the award was known as the Agricultural Stewardship Award.

New York State’s AEM framework is a model for the nation as a voluntary, incentive-based approach to protect natural resources and meet the economic needs of the agricultural community.



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By Henry Talmage
htalmage@nyfb.org

Safety Group 486 Annual Meeting Held Virtually, Elections Held

The New York Farm Bureau Safety Group 486 held its annual meeting on Jan. 20 via Zoom for the second year in a row.

The Safety Group 486 was formed by New York Farm Bureau in 1967 to provide a stable and affordable source for workers' compensation insurance to our members. Workers' compensation safety groups in New York are pooled-risk programs underwritten by the State Insurance Fund and are most often managed by industry-specific associations. New York Farm Bureau Member Services Inc. is the group manager for SG 486. To participate in SG 486, you must be an agricultural producer and a member of New York Farm Bureau.

The Annual Meeting is normally held in person at the NY Farm Bureau State Annual meeting but because that meeting was scaled back to a delegate-only, limited attendance event, the decision was made to utilize Zoom for the Safety Group 486 meeting. All policy holders were notified of the meeting and were able to register and participate.

Elections for SG 486 Executive Committee members were held with Eric Ooms and Hal Kreher being re-elected for three-year terms. Representatives from the State Insurance Fund were on hand to answer questions and describe the new, joint Consultative Safety Program.

A review of the group's financial performance was presented which included an analysis of premium, losses, and charges from the previous year and the impact on the contingent balance. It is through these factors that the dividend returned to policyholders is determined. SG 486 continues to have strong performance evidenced by a 40% dividend issued again this year along with a 25% up front discount.

SG 486 5-year dividend average is 40%, much stronger than the average dividend of 26% for all safety groups. This strong performance is thanks to our nearly 2,400 policy holders and their commitment to providing a safe work environment.

Murray Named Rural Development Director for NYS

President Joe Biden recently announced his intent to appoint Brian S. Murray as the State Director for USDA Rural Development in New York.

RD State Directors serve as the chief executive officer of Rural Development in the states and territories and are tasked with carrying out the mission of rural development to the benefit of everyone in rural America. In conjunction with the guidance and support of the National Office, State Directors are responsible for promoting the mission and strategic goals of Rural Development and provide key leadership to develop and support a productive, diverse, and inclusive state workforce.



Murray

Brian Murray has spent over 19 years with Rural Development prior to his appointment as State Director for New York. Brian started his career with the agency in 2002 as a Loan Specialist in the Canton, NY field office. In 2007, he became an Area Director, serving New York from the state's Southern Tier to the Canadian border. Most recently, Brian was the Associate Enterprise Director for New York State. A lifelong New Yorker, Brian hails from rural Peterboro, NY.

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Commodity Report: Equine



Learning to Drop the Rope

Riding Teacher Goes Back to School to Regain Confidence and Discovers a New Language with Her Horses

By Diane Schoonmaker
Special to Grassroots

I started riding 50 years ago. I achieved my B in Pony Club*, attended Cazenovia College for my Associate of Science degree in Equine Studies, received certification from American Riding Instructors Association (ARIA) and became a life member. I was fortunate to have many riding opportunities, from local open English shows, county fairs, fox hunting, hunter pacing, three-day events, trail riding and rodeo in a few movies. My passion has always been teaching beginner-low intermediate riders, primarily English.

I started teaching my senior year of high school and happily, I'm still sharing my passion in the same area today. My full-time job is managing our 22-acre farm, Flying Change Farm, six lesson horses and a client base of more than 50 students.

In 2008, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was six months out of my life of surgery, chemo and radiation. That was the easy part. The hard part was I lost my confidence around the horses. I doubted my handling them in case I got hurt. I became an "avoidaholic," I was fine teaching, but sent anyone I could to catch the horses for lessons and handle them. For a professional who competed preliminary in the eventing world, I couldn't understand my fears.

Discovering Natural Horsemanship

A friend of mine connected me with a Natural Horsemanship clinician who came to my farm and I hosted ten horses and riders. I came up with the excuse that I am a visual learner and needed to keep things organized so did not participate in the hands on groundwork. The clinician supported many of the current nationally-known Natural Horsemanship practitioners so there was a great variety of techniques. I was exposed to a discipline that seem to fit the bill for what my soul needed. The biggest takeaway was that the whole relationship with your horse can be from the ground, exactly what I needed to work through.

My fellow horse connections and I found a more local Natural Horsemanship instructor who came to do workshops with us on a more regular basis. I was hooked. Learning to disengage the hind quarters, yoyo to stop, be in charge of my horse's feet. That was a whole new vocabulary for me. My confidence in having a "conversation" with my horse took on a whole new meaning. Knowing I could get a horse to stop with a "whisper" of a touch from my rope, or just tipping my ear to my shoulder was so exciting, I was hooked.

Learning a New Language

In learning some of this new language, I found my teaching style change. I was always referred to as the "safety queen," but the whole energy around our farm was calmer. Parents did less looking at their phone during lessons, and listening to what



SPECIAL/DIANE SCHOONMAKER

Diane Schoonmaker on her farm in Accord, NY with lesson horse Billy.

I was saying about relationships between human and equid.

When I "worked" a horse on the ground to see what it was at emotionally or physically before a lesson, they watched with intrigue. I never want to be called a horse whisperer but being able to read the horses all the time, especially before I put a student on certainly set up for success.

Checking in

I now prefer to meet my horses at the gate to bring them in for a lesson so I can start reading them and moving their feet to see where they are at mentally. If they can't politely walk with a loose rope from my right or left, stop when I lightly suggest it, stand patiently, then I know I need to take a few minutes and move their feet. Either with some backing from a series of pressure on their nose or chest, disengage their hindquarters, by getting them to cross their back feet, perhaps they need to "twist off" in the round pen and play at liberty for a few minutes. All a way for us to check in and be on the same language so I understand where they are on the given day and time.

I have learned to "drop the rope," don't hold on to things that need to be held on to so tightly. Ask the horse to be with me, not tell them. If we are both not in the right mind set to work together on a certain day, I look for another activity to do. Just to take the time to hang together, drop the rope, ground tie and groom with the intent of connecting with my horse, not just to clean them.

As with any discipline, we have the option of taking it wherever we want.

I have incorporated the work with my daily program. The horses, my students, the parents and I all benefit from learning to understand each other.

** Certification for Pony Club members who are interested in acquiring further knowledge and proficiency in riding*

Editor's note: Diane says she's been in remission from cancer for 14 years with the help of her great medical team. She says keeping busy on her farm and staying positive have also helped her stay healthy.

Live, Love, Attend PSA Grower Training



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 PSA Grower Training Course 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:

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

Online delivery course 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.

Remote delivery course 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.

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COMMODITY REPORT: EQUINE

A Unique Situation Under Foot

Through Education, Riders and Owners Can Become More Proactive in the Care of their Horse's Hooves

By Erika Eckstrom

Special to Grassroots

Every horse has a farrier. One can easily argue that the person who trims and shoes a horse's feet is the most important person for the success of the horse. Most horses see their farrier every six to eight weeks when they come due for a trim. But what if a horse saw their farrier every day?

At the Painted Bar Stables in Burdett, NY, a unique situation is under foot. At our stables we employ a resident farrier who exclusively shoes our 50 horses: Jen Marosek VanDusen, CF.

VanDusen, a Certified Farrier and graduate of the Cornell University Farrier School, used to be a traveling farrier like most other farriers. In 2011 she trimmed and shod feet at the Painted Bar Stables as well as a number of other local farms in the area. However throughout the years I came to realize that VanDusen was not only an excellent horsewoman, both under foot and in the saddle, but was also a phenomenal teacher with an education to match, Bachelor of Science in Equine Science and a Masters in Education from Salem University in West Virginia.

Nowadays, VanDusen plays a unique role on the farm as our head instructor of lessons as well as our in-house resident farrier. She is at the stables at least five or six days every week and knows each horse from top to bottom. In this role, VanDusen has gotten to know each of the nearly 50 horses in an intimate way: being a part of their care routines, influencing the nutrition choices made for each of them, choosing and monitoring their riding and workload, and being the exclusive farrier to make choices about their feet.

Hooves in Action

Most farriers will admit that they mostly look at a horse from the knees down. And while they inherently know that their work needs to match the motion of the horse, many farriers never truly get to see the horses move let alone work under saddle.

By working in multiple capacities around the herd, VanDusen has the opportunity to watch the horses move, both ridden and unburdened by riders. She sees them being ridden by riders of all types: children, beginners, novice intermediates, and more advanced riders. She sees them in the arena in flatwork, jumping, on trail rides and even in endurance riding events. She sees them move when the horses are feeling fresh, when they are tired, when they are playing and when they are working.

She now knows the movement patterns of each of the horses — whether they paddle outward, or wing inward, forge — and if they move differently in different circumstances. Armed with more knowledge, she has the ability to evaluate how each trim and each shoe impacts the daily life of the horse.

There are many days where in the middle of teaching a lesson VanDusen will be watching how a horse is moving and completely change the farrier plan for that horse, switching to a different shoe or choosing to make a more aggressive trim to alter an angle so that the horse will have a better stride length, shoulder swing or impact strength.

From Start to Finish

It is unique for a farrier to see each hoof throughout the entirety of the hoof cycle. Most



SPECIAL/ERIKA ECKSTROM

Certified Farrier Jen VanDusen has the ability to correlate the use and events with the growth and abrasion patterns in the hoof at Painted Bar Stables.

farriers only get to see a hoof at two points within the growth cycle: when the hoof is grown and due to be trimmed and as the horse walks out of their appointment with a freshly trimmed hoof.

By being present for the mid-cycle wear and tear of the hoof, VanDusen has the ability to correlate the use and events with the growth and abrasion patterns in the hoof.

An example we regularly bring up, is that before VanDusen came on board full time, the two of us regularly discussed the amount of length that should be left on a hoof at each trim. I was always advocating for leaving a little more length on the hoof at each trim. She was always advocating for less, going to the industry standard length that gives enough protection while leaving more room for growth between trims.

My horses work hard for a living guiding trail rides and teaching novice lessons. Spending so much time in slow and low impact but high frequency work on varying terrain, the horses were regularly dragging their feet over gravel and wearing their feet to nubs.

As a traveling farrier she didn't get to see this first hand — just how much they worked and when and just how much they could wear their feet so much on the very first day. They walked off the crossties with perfect feet and came back to her 8 weeks later looking fine but overdue. She never saw that point about two weeks later where they had worn their feet faster than they had grown. How would she have known if she didn't get to see that horse one day, one week or one month after their appointment?

About six months into VanDusen being at the farm full time she told me that she completely understood why they needed more length on their feet, and actually started leaving even more than I was advocating for. The barefoot horses especially needed that extra millimeter of wear and

tear to protect them as they ground their hooves in the sand of the arena or the gravel on the trails immediately that same day after they got their feet trimmed.

Results: Proof is in the Pudding

The obvious change on our farm is the betterment of our horses. They are staying sound, having less issues, and only a handful of them ever lose their shoes.

Our horses are moving better than ever before. With this more insightful care we have had less issues with horses forging (hitting their hind foot into their front foot), stumbling and tripping, dragging their feet, tracking out of alignment and many other movement issues. Many of the horses have even changed their posture for the better due to rebalanced and in some cases more aggressive therapeutic trim techniques that have reduced shoulder tension and back soreness.

We rarely think about hoof issues on our farm. The main issue we usually have is our barefoot horses wearing their feet too fast but with VanDusen on site we know that with a simple mention and her observation that horse will have a shoeing or trim plan lined up before that even happens.

In a herd of nearly 50 horses, the only abscesses we see are almost always in horses that have been on the farm less than a year. Despite two thirds of our herd requiring shoes for their jobs on trail, we usually don't average more than one or two shoes lost per month, even in the peak season. And even when we do lose shoes it's almost always either Brumby or Hero; every herd has that horse, usually thoroughbreds, and our Cinderella is Brumby and Cinder-fella is Hero.

Our farrier budget has benefited as well due to the increased efficiency.

The Takeaway

So what's the point? Most people cannot hire someone to be a full time farrier for their small herd. The farrier cannot be at every lesson, but you can.

Owners and riders can be a full time advocate for their horse by becoming observant and educated enough to communicate with their farrier about the intricacies of their horse's experiences and needs. By learning more about anatomy, how farriery affects motion, and developing better hoof care techniques owners and riders can become witnesses for their farriers mid-cycle.

Through education, riders and owners can become more proactive as well in the care of their horse's hooves. Chasing a never ending trail of lost shoes, bruised soles, abscesses, uneven wear patterns, weak walls, cracked hooves, thrush and white line disease sets up both the horse and the farrier for failure. An educated horse person can be an important part in preventing problems before they start or calling their farriers in for an appointment before it becomes a problem.

Much of VanDusens' goal on our farm is to teach the riders to be hoof advocates. Through a number of different farrier classes and seminar series at the Painted Bar Stables, VanDusen is now using her farrier shop to give students more insight to the axiom: "No Hoof, No Horse." By introducing even the most novice students to farrier concepts, she is opening up a whole world of future symbiosis between those who enjoy horses and the farriers that keep them going.

Erika Eckstrom is the owner and trainer at Painted Bar Stables in Burdett, NY.

Three Reasons to Make Grain Bin Safety the Talk of Your Town

Zero lives lost: That's the goal of Nationwide's Grain Bin Safety Week program and Think Grain Bin Safety campaign. They reflect our passion for agriculture and leadership position as the nation's number-one farm insurer.

With our Think Grain Bin Safety campaign and Grain Bin Safety Week program, we're raising the bar for safety action and awareness this year. And Farm Bureau members and leaders can support the effort through financial contributions and community involvement.

"Grain bin safety is a lot more than just a campaign to us at Nationwide," said Nationwide Agribusiness President Brad Liggett. "It's something we're passionate about year-round, and part of our commitment to the health, safety and success of our farm customers."

Why grain bin safety outreach is so important

The ninth annual Grain Bin Safety Week program kicked off January 1 and runs through the end of April. It culminates with a contest in late April that awards nominated rural fire de-



partments with grain rescue tubes and training.

Since 2007, there have been more than 475 documented grain bin entrapments in the U.S. Since its inception, the Grain Bin Safety Week program has awarded 207 rescue tubes in 31 states. The program has helped save five lives that would have been lost without the vital equipment and training.

While the distribution of rescue tubes is a key part of the program, Nationwide leads the effort to promote awareness to prevent grain bin entry and entrapments altogether.

Three reasons to lead grain bin safety efforts in your community

Grain Bin Safety Week and the Think Grain Bin Safety campaign depend on local community involvement. Beyond raising general awareness, there are three main reasons for Farm Bureau members to get involved:



- Avoid grain bin entry. Create a "zero lives lost" mentality by prioritizing safety whenever working in or around grain bins or preventing bin entry whenever possible.

- Become a grain bin safety advocate. Share critical grain bin safety information with friends, family and community members.

- Prepare first responders. Nominate your local fire department to receive a grain rescue tube and necessary training as part of the Grain Bin Safety Week contest.

"We don't want to just talk about grain bin safety. We want to raise awareness about how to save lives and equip our rural communities with the tools and training they need to make it happen," Liggett said.

"Grain bin safety is so important to us at Nationwide because we recognize the extreme hazards of working in grain bins. And we want to ensure our customers and all farmers are safe and return home at the end of every day working on the farm."

How to get started

Start raising grain bin safety awareness in your community at Think-grainbinsafety.com. There, you'll find articles, videos and other tools and resources to start the conversation with customers, other farmers and members of your community.

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Three Questions to Ask Before Lending Farm and Ag Equipment to Neighbors

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

When her husband Mike passed away in 2020, Jolene Palmer was faced with the task of harvesting the Fairfax, Minnesota, farm family's corn crop — but she wasn't alone.

Neighboring farmers eagerly volunteered their time and equipment — 58 people, 12 combines, 12 grain carts and 28 semis, to be exact — to help her get the crop in the bin.

"In a total of 15 hours, they harvested 1,100 acres. It really was a true effort," Palmer said. "It went so smoothly. It was just a huge accomplishment and it really made everybody feel good."

Farmers are well known for helping each other in times of need. Lending equipment or a helping hand to neighbors often takes place without a second thought. But like anything in farming, it's crucial to do proper planning — weighing any safety, liability and insurance considerations.

Before lending farm & ag equipment, consider this scenario:

Say your neighbor rolls over your lent tractor, which is one of the most common accidents in farming. Could you be liable for injuries? Will damages to the tractor be covered under your insurance policy?

Ask these questions before lending equipment

Nationwide's AVP of Risk Management, Jason Berkland, recommends farmers stop and ask themselves three important questions before lending equipment to assist neighbors, including:

1.) Does my policy extend coverage

for rented or lent equipment? Before donating equipment or machinery to help out, confirm any coverage for that equipment with your farm insurance agent.

2.) Is the piece of equipment in good working order? Make sure any machinery or equipment you are lending is well-maintained. That includes having all safety equipment like guards or locks installed and in working order. For additional information on mobile equipment safety, consider our mobile equipment safety training program.

3.) Does the person borrowing the equipment have the experience and ability to run the equipment safely? Confirm who will be operating the equipment and that they have the necessary experience. Also conduct a walkaround together to point out safety features, worn parts and areas to watch while using the equipment.

Help your neighbors with confidence

As the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.1, Nationwide has been helping farmers in need for nearly a century — so we get it. We just want to make sure that when farmers help other farmers, safeguards are in place to help protect those involved.

Contact your local Nationwide Farm Certified agent to learn more about the risks of lending farm equipment and to confirm you have the proper coverage. This way, you can be confident in helping your neighbors.

*A.M. Best Market Share Report 2020. Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle, and Nationwide is on your side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2021 Nationwide

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FISHER

From Page 4

our members’ voices are heard in Albany.

Much of this is about creating additional value for you. NYFB is known for its outstanding advocacy, but we want to be your source for information as well. Whether it is education, training, or business needs, the resources we are looking to provide will help each of us in different ways be better farmers, employers and

ADDRESS

From Page 6

COVID-19 pandemic during 2021 and reflected on the lessons learned that will move New York agriculture forward.

“We in this room are uniquely positioned to come together and effect positive change at a scale that few people can imagine. We have in this room the mindset, the sense of purpose, and sense of urgency, and the will to ensure that agriculture remains viable here in New York for this generation and for those to come. Ours is a noble profession, our cause is still correct. I like our chances and I look forward to working with you to build on our hard-won successes, and to develop new opportunities for agriculture in New York in 2022 and beyond,” he said.

In his address, Commissioner Ball

businesspeople all working together for the betterment of agriculture. Always keep an eye on your email alerts from New York Farm Bureau, including Wednesday’s e-news, with all the details and latest information.

If you have a topic that you would like us to cover, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me, your county and state board leaders, or staff. Our goal is to bring members information and services that they need in a consistent and user-friendly manner.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

A recording of the speech is available at this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/nysas-speech>

A transcript of the Commissioner’s remarks as prepared can be found at this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/nysas-remarks>

also highlighted the many groundbreaking initiatives focused on agriculture that were presented during Gov. Kathy Hochul’s State of the State Address.

Finally, the Commissioner spoke about the Department’s ongoing activities to maintain its essential functions to protect public health and the food supply; ensure animal and plant health; protect consumers and businesses; and promote New York’s farmers and agricultural products.

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Chemung County Farm Bureau board of directors receives their Gold Key Award.



Schuyler County Farm Bureau past president Nicole Dockstader and new president Mark McCulloch pose to recognize receipt of this year's Gold Key Award.



Ontario County Farm Bureau President Eric Amberg with the Gold Key Award Certificate.



Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors received a Gold Key Award.

Gold Key Awards

The Gold Key Award recognizes overall program achievement in New York Farm Bureau's County Excellence Awards Program. Points awarded for activities and accomplishments within the Excellence Program are tallied and the county receiving the highest total of points in each of the four county Farm Bureau size categories receives a Gold Key

Award. To be eligible, a county Farm Bureau must have achieved membership goal in the same time frame as the award program. Congratulations to Schuyler, Cattaraugus, Chemung and Ontario Counties for this achievement. Each county will be awarded \$500 to recognize this milestone.

Award Photos by NYFB Field Staff



High Five Awards

New York Farm Bureau membership recruiters who signed up five or more members in 2021 were recently awarded with NYFB branded jackets. We thank these members for their dedication and commitment to our organization.

Left: Tom Graser of Cattaraugus Farm Bureau and Jeanette Miller of Niagara County Farm Bureau display their awarded jackets.

Not pictured: Judi Whittaker of Broome County Farm Bureau.





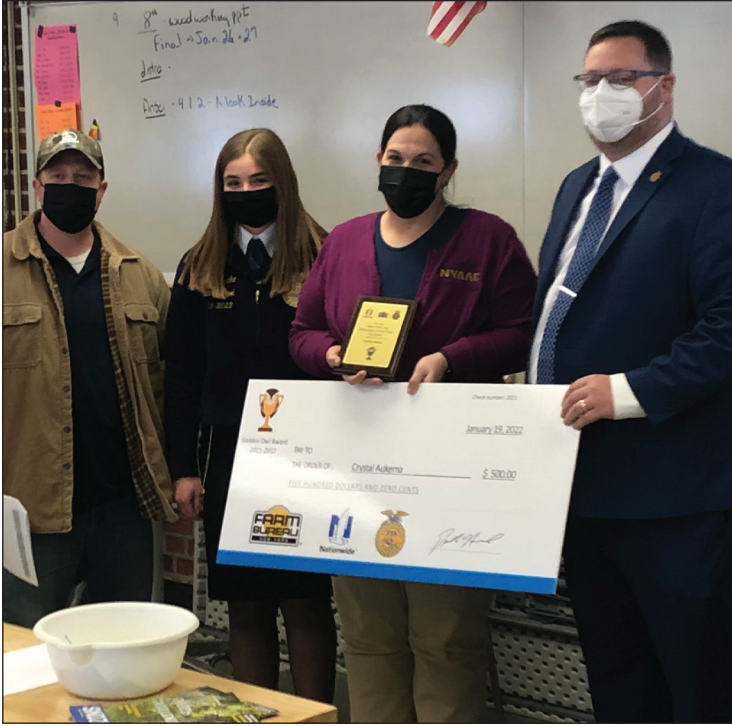
Golden Owl Awards

Nationwide first partnered with state FFA organizations to create the Golden Owl Award in 2018 to highlight the growing importance of educators and recognize the services of many of the country’s leading agricultural teachers. The program also supplies additional resources to help boost the teachers’ programs and provide students with optimal learning experiences. Statewide regional awards were recently presented.

Above: From left, David Rodgers, President of Morrisville College; John Wagner, NYFB; Derek Hill, New York State FFA, Paige Warren, NYS FFA State Officer; Chip Ax, Morrisville College Agricultural Engineering Professor and Golden Owl Award Winner; Johanna Bossard, Madison County Farm Bureau; Barry Spriggs, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Anthony Contento, Dean of Agricultural Business and Technology.



From left, John Wagner, NYFB; Keith Peavey, Tanner Insurance — a Nationwide provider; Paige Warren, NY FFA State Officer, Johanna Bossard, Hamilton Central School Agricultural Educator and Golden Owl Award Winner; Derek Hill, New York State FFA, and William Dowsland, Superintendent of Hamilton Central Schools.



The Golden Owl Award was presented to Marathon High School Ag Teacher Crystal Aukema. From left, Jesse Marsh, Nationwide Insurance; Brooklin Drake, NYS FFA Sentinel; Crystal Aukema, and Derek Hill, New York State FFA.

Left: Chenango County Farm Bureau President Bradd Vickers (and Chipper).

Right : Mark Watts, left, and Ashur Terwilliger of Che-mung Co. with their Farm Bureau jackets





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NY FarmNet Welcomes Matt Wells, Continues to Provide Free and Confidential Consulting

NY FarmNet, a program of Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is proud to welcome Matt Wells to their team as a part time financial consultant. Matt also serves as the vice president of operations and food safety for New York Apple Sales and Yes! Apples. From 2015 to 2017 he led the Lake Ontario Fruit Team at Cornell Co-operative Extension in western New York.

Matt brings a wealth of experience to the farm clients he is now available to serve, free of charge, as a NY FarmNet consultant. NY FarmNet financial consultants assist clients with business and succession planning, financial analysis, record keeping, loan applications, life after farming, and connecting to additional resources.

NY FarmNet also offers family consulting services to farm clients free of charge. Family consultants work with farmers to improve family and marital relations, develop strategies for better communication, manage stress and anxiety, facilitate difficult



IN RELATED NEWS

AFBF: New National Poll Shows Encouraging Signs of Reduced Stigma Around Farmer Mental Health/**Page 35**

discussions, and run family business meetings in a way that all members have a voice.

Family consultants have a master’s level degree in counseling or social work, and understand the farming lifestyle. NY FarmNet consultants will meet with clients at the farm, or in the comfort of their own home, making it a little easier to fit the appointment into already stretched schedules.

“Matt is a great addition to the NY FarmNet team because of his extensive background with tree fruit and his desire to give back to the agricultural community. We are excited to provide a diverse set of consulting services to the farmers of New York,” said Amelia Parseghian, Program

Coordinator for NY FarmNet.

NY FarmNet helps farmers, farm families, and agricultural professionals navigate times of crisis, growth, and opportunity. Farm clients are assigned both a family and a financial consultant to help address the many issues they may face. All services are free of charge and completely confidential. For more information or to request assistance, call 1-800-547-3276 or visit www.nyfarmnet.org and click the red “Contact” button.

NY FarmNet was founded by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University in response to the national farm crisis in the 1980s. NY FarmNet still operates at Cornell as part of the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management.

The Dyson School is part of both Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the SC Johnson College of Business. NY FarmNet is funded by the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NYS Office of Mental Health, the private sector, and individual donations.

If you are interested in making a donation to NY FarmNet, visit www.nyfarmnet.org and click the banner across the top. Contact Amelia Parseghian, Program Coordinator, ako9@cornell.edu with any questions or for more information.



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Oneida County Farm Bureau Holds Annual Ag Trivia and Raffle Event

Oneida County Farm Bureau recently held their annual Ag Trivia and Raffle at Hart’s Hill Inn in Whitesboro, NY. Thanks to generous sponsors, there were more than 100 prizes available for attendees to win as part of the basket bonanza raffle. Proceeds raised fund Oneida County Ag Youth programming and scholarships.

Top photo: This year’s winning team was from Madison County Farm Bureau. Members of the team included Darrell and Chris Griff, Steve and Erin Smith along with Bret and Johanna Bossard along with their children Raegan and Brynley.



JOHN WAGNER/NYFB STAFF

Bottom photo: The second-place team was Wagner’s Revelers, the team consisted of Theresa Wagner, Dave and Nancy Tackman, Shawn Bossard (president of the Madison County Farm Bureau) along with Denise Zinsmeyer and Scott Coffyn.



JOHN WAGNER/NYFB STAFF

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Climate Action Council Releases Draft Scoping Plan with Target Dates

By Elizabeth Wolters
ewolters@nyfb.org

On Dec. 20, 2021, the Climate Action Council (CAC) voted to release the draft scoping plan for public comment. Advising the CAC were seven sector-specific Advisory Panels and the Just Transition Working Group who were provided the opportunity to comment and make additional recommendations to each of the sector recommendations. The 120-day public comment period began on Jan. 1, 2022. The draft scoping plan is an initial framework for the state on how it will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero emissions, increase renewable energy usage, and ensure climate justice.

Sector-by-sector analysis of greenhouse gas emissions were completed by the state and according to this analysis agricultural emissions represented approximately 6% of the statewide emissions in 2019. Of this 6%, livestock represents approximately 92% and soil management practices represent approximately 8% of total agricultural emissions. Unlike other industries, agriculture and forestry also provide carbon sequestration benefits and can provide a significant contribution towards the state achieving net zero.

The primary source of emissions released by agriculture come from methane and nitrous oxide with a relatively small amount of carbon dioxide. The scoping plan discusses reductions in carbon dioxide equivalents when discussing reductions in other greenhouse gases.

As a participant in the Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel, New York Farm Bureau helped to shape the recommendations for the agriculture and forestry section to ensure that the recommendations were realistic, based in science and economically achievable.

The Draft Scoping Plan provides two target dates for reductions in emissions 2030 and 2050 and further recognizes existing sectoral mitigation strategies already in use including, precision feed management in dairy, the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) framework, New York's Climate Resilient Farming (CRF), the New York State Methane Reduction Plan of 2017 and others.

To continue this good work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase sequestration in soils, New York will utilize the AEM framework, overseen by the Department of Agriculture and Markets and by County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). The existing framework will be enhanced with new and expanded initiatives, research, and development of new approaches to reducing emissions and increasing sequestration capacity.

Key areas where the scoping plan identifies opportunities for reductions as follows:

- **Advance Alternative Manure Management**

Farmers have invested resources in manure storage as an important practice to facilitate nutrient management, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers and to reduce runoff. Unfortunately, as demonstrated in research published by Jennifer Wightman and Peter Woodbury in the Journal of Environmental Quality, these storage strategies can increase methane production through the anerobic decomposition of the manure and have caused the single highest increase in agricultural emissions since the 1990 baseline. Utilizing practice systems such as cover and flare systems, anaerobic digestion, composting and other innovative systems that collect, capture, and destroy methane from storages or prevent methane production through improved manure management.

- **Advance Precision Feed, Forage, and Herd Management**

As we all know, methane is produced as part of the normal digestive process in ruminants through a process referred to enteric fermentation. Enteric Fermentation is the highest percentage of agricultural emissions, however dairy and other livestock farms have improved feed efficiency, reducing methane emissions per unit of milk and other produces since the 1990 baseline. New York dairy farmers have also further reduced the carbon footprint per hundredweight of milk through greater efficiencies in feed management, reducing enteric methane emission from cow digestion. More reductions will be needed by New York Agriculture to meet the Climate Act emission limits.

The scoping plan recommends expanding on this work and providing additional research and development in precision feed and forage management.

- **Advance Agricultural Nutrient Management**

New York farmers have improved nutrient management on fields and have been able to continue to increase crop yields. When comparing New York farms nitrous oxide emissions to other agricultural systems both nationally and globally, New York farms are lower. Even with these lower emissions comparatively, additional training in the use of nutrient management tools, equipment and data collection can further reduce nitrous oxide emissions.

The draft scoping plan recommends expanding funding and technical assistance, increase program participation to more farmers and seek additional feedback particularly where adoption is lower, expand cost share eligibility for historically underserved farmers and capital-intensive equipment, expand soil and water conservation district capacity, enhance workforce training, and support implementation services like custom op-

erator capacity.

- **Adopt Soil Health Practice Systems**

Soil health practice systems have the capacity to reduce net GHG emissions while increasing carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits like reducing nutrient run-off. Practices included in such systems are cover and double cropping, conservation crop rotations, perennial crops, prescribed grazing, nutrient management with fertilizer or manure application and other conservation tillage practices. Current programs like the State's Climate Resilient Farming program can assist farmers in adopting such practices.

Some of the components of this strategy recommended by the draft scoping plan are increasing funding of current programs, expanding program participants, strategies to increase adoption of soil health practices on rented lands, expanding capacity of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, increase perennial planting systems, increasing integrated planning efforts, increasing the use of precision and digital agricultural tools. Another important component of this strategy is support research for monitoring and verification to help meet the qualifiers set under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and to qualify for federal and private funding of GHG mitigation.

Other key areas recommended by the draft scoping plan include increased adoption of agroforestry, developing an Agricultural Environmental Management planning for climate mitigation and adoption, monitor and benchmark agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, establish a payment for ecosystem services program, and bolstering local agricultural economies among others.

New York Farm Bureau will be submitting comments to the draft scoping plan to support the recommendations made by the Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel and encourage members to as well. The draft scoping plan, meeting materials and additional details of the law and process can be found at climate.ny.gov.

California's Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Rule Adopted by New York

New York State has adopted the California Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Rule. This rule requires that any manufacturer of vehicles greater than 8,500 pounds to sell increasing number of zero-emissions vehicles in New York State.

According to the rule by 2035, zero emissions vehicles must make up 40 to 75% of truck sales, depending on the vehicle class. New York Farm Bureau submitted comments expressing opposition to the adoption of the rule that can be found on the website.



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News Briefs

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.

RMA is proposing to make changes to the apple crop insurance program that: Enable producers to elect different coverage levels and percent of price elections by type, which allows producers to manage individual coverage and price risk more effectively.

Allow producers' premiums to be reduced in response to orchard management practices, such as removing or grafting trees, that typically occur after the acreage reporting date and decrease an orchard's productivity. Allow producers to insure at a higher price



for apples sold predominantly to direct markets or premium processing markets. Exclude apples sold for the slicer market from being considered "fresh apple production." Introduce a fresh fruit factor to account for the reduced market value of production insured under the Quality Option sold for a grade other than U.S. Fancy. RMA is soliciting comments on these proposed changes.

The comment period has been extended until at least March 2022. Interested parties can submit comments via the Federal Register, and a copy of the rule can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/rma-apple-crop>

FDA to Hold Public Meetings on Proposed Changes to Water Requirements in the Produce Safety Rule

The FDA will be holding two virtual public meetings to discuss the recently released proposed rule "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption Relating to Agricultural Water." The purpose of the public meetings is to discuss the proposed rule, which was issued under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

The first meeting will be held on Feb. 14, 2022, from 11:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. EST. The second meeting will be held on Feb. 25, 2022, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. More specifics, including information on how to register for the meetings, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-fsma>.

Reminder for Electronic Submission of OSHA Injury/Illness Records

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a reminder for employers that the agency began collecting calendar year 2021 Form 300A data on Jan. 2, 2022. Employers must submit the form electronically by March 2, 2022.

Electronic submissions are required by establishments with 250 or more employees currently required to keep OSHA injury and

illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees classified in specific industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses. This includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

Visit the Injury Tracking Application Electronic Submission of Injury and Illness Records to OSHA website at <https://www.osha.gov/injuryreporting/> for more information and a link to the Injury Tracking Application.

U.S. Wins USMCA Dairy Case with Canada

A USMCA (U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement) dispute settlement panel has decided in favor of the U.S. in a case against Canada over dairy imports. The panel found that Canada violated the terms of the USMCA by improperly restricting access to its market for U.S. dairy products by the administration of its dairy tariff-rate quota (TRQ) commitments. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) brought the case claiming that their implementation of the dairy TRQ's unfairly protects Canadian firms and limits the ability of U.S. products to enter Canadian markets. These TRQ's are intended to allow for increased access for U.S. dairy products.

Required consultations under the dispute process began in December 2020 and did not resolve the issues. Canada has until February 3, 2022,

to comply with the decision or face potential U.S. retaliation.

DHS to Release Additional H-2B Visas

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of Labor announced a forthcoming publication of joint temporary final rule to make available an additional 20,000 H-2B visas for fiscal year 2022. These visas will be set aside for U.S. employers seeking to employ additional workers on or before March 31, 2022. This supplemental cap marks the first time that DHS is making additional H-2B visas available in the first half of the fiscal year. Earlier this year, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) received enough petitions for returning workers to reach the additional 22,000 H-2B visas made available under the FY 2021 H-2B supplemental visa temporary final rule.

The supplemental H-2B visa allocation consists of 13,500 visas available to returning workers who received an H-2B visa, or were otherwise granted H-2B status, during one of the last three fiscal years. The remaining 6,500 visas, which are exempt from the returning worker requirement, are reserved for nationals of Haiti and the Northern Triangle countries of Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. In the announcement regarding the additional visas, DHS noted it will issue a separate notice of proposed rulemaking to modernize and reform the H-2B program that will focus on program inefficiencies and protection against the exploitation of H-2B workers.

Canada Files Softwood Lumber Case

Canada has filed notices under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) against the increased duties on Canadian softwood lumber imports. The U.S. Commerce Department in November 2021 increased the anti-dumping and countervailing duties to 17.9 percent from 9 percent. Canada has been in discussion with the Administration about the increased duties.

The U.S. - Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement expired in October 2016. After no further agreement was concluded the U.S. acted to impose duties. The heart of the issue is subsidies (timber harvest/stumpage fees set by the Canadian federal and provincial governments, versus the commercial market as in the U.S.) benefitting the Canadian lumber industry. The subsidies have been the subject of dispute over the last three decades. The U.S. imposed countervailing duties against Canada before the two countries announced in 2006 that they had reached an agreement (the Softwood Lumber Agreement) to end the dispute. Under the softwood lumber agreement, the U.S. agreed to lift its countervailing duties if Canadian lumber prices stayed above a certain level. Canada agreed to tax lumber bound for the U.S. or change its pricing system. In 2020 a World

Trade Organization dispute settlement panel ruled that the U.S. inappropriately applied countervailing duties on Canadian softwood lumber imports. Canada brought this challenge in 2018 to these duties imposed by the U.S. No further WTO action has been taken due to the Appellate Body being inactive for lack of necessary members.

Farm Bureau policy supports a revised U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement.

USDA Designates Conn. Counties, Adjacent NY County as Primary Natural Disaster Areas

This Secretarial natural disaster designation allows the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. The application deadline is Aug. 22, 2022.

Impacted Area: Connecticut; Primary Counties Eligible: Middlesex and New London. Contiguous Counties Also Eligible: Connecticut: Hartford, New Haven, Tolland and Windham; New York: Suffolk; Rhode Island: Kent and Washington. Triggering Disaster: Losses caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida that occurred from Sept. 1 through Sept. 3, 2021. For more Resources: www.farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help farmers determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or to ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Supreme Court Reinstates a Stay of OSHA's Vaccinate-or-Test ETS

The Supreme Court ruled last week that OSHA lacked the authority to impose the vaccine or test mandate because the law that created OSHA "empowers the Secretary to set workplace safety standards, not broad public health measures." While the decision technically is only a temporary stay of the emergency temporary standard (ETS) pending a full review of the legal challenges to the rule by the Sixth Circuit, the Court's conservative justices signaled that the majority believes OSHA exceeded its statutory authority in issuing a workplace standard to address an issue of broad public health. Considering this decision, enforcement of the ETS has been stayed, meaning there are no regulatory obligations to meet pursuant to the ETS.

-Compiled by Lauren Williams

2022 National Priorities Set for NYFB

The New York Farm Bureau Board of Directors developed and approved a set of priority issues that the organization will work on at the national level for the second session of the 117th Congress. New York Farm Bureau will continue to build relationships to educate and work with members of Congress and regulatory agencies to promote policies that benefit New York farmers and rural communities.

Agricultural Labor

- Enact legislation that helps farmers address their short- and long-term labor needs.
- Allows current, trained workers to stay on farms and maintain a consistent workforce to plant and harvest crops, and care for livestock.
- Modernize the H-2A program to ensure a continuous, legal workforce for all sectors of agriculture.
- Update H-2A rules to enhance farmers’ ability to hire the workers they need.

Sustainability and Climate

- Ensure that environmental sustainability efforts also provide economic sustainability for farmers.
- Provide voluntary, market-based incentive tools and technical assistance for farmers and foresters to enhance carbon sequestration, climate-smart conservation practices and other greenhouse gas emissions reductions using scientifically sound standards.
- Foster the development of private sector ecosystem services markets.
- Increase public awareness of agricultural advances in conservation and climate-smart practices.

Supply Chain

- Identify and pursue regulatory and administrative actions that decrease port congestion, reduce barriers to employment, speed up transportation of goods via rail and highway, and ease inflationary pressures.
- Expand agricultural processing capacity and enhance market transparency.
- Provide support to small meat processing plants to attain federal inspection and expand capacity.
- Ensure access to agricultural inputs through proactive trade policies and science-based environmental assessments of chemical registrations.



Farm Policy

- Surface proposals for inclusion in the 2023 Farm Bill.
- Set the stage for bipartisan farm bill discussions.

Dairy Pricing

- Examine and review methods to restructure and modernize the current Federal Milk Marketing Order system.
- Ensure dairy farm families across the country have a voice – and a vote – when considering how to modernize these orders.

Regulations

- Continue to work for a regulatory environment that enables farmers to be productive as well as environmentally and economically sustainable.
- Defend recent improvements to environmental regulations including the Navigable Waters Protection Rule and National Environmental Policy Act procedural updates.
- Ensure enforcement of organic standards including those related to livestock.
- Guarantee that the agricultural water testing requirements under the Produce Safety Rule are achievable for farmers.
- Work for reform of decision making and appeals related to conservation compliance (Swampbuster) rules.
- Ensure that renewable energy sources such as domestic-grown biofuels are utilized to their full potential.
- Monitor rules and practices dealing with labeling of food and agricultural products, including milk, cell-based products and foods containing ingredients that are products of biotechnology.
- Work with USDA to ensure contracted conservation practices that fail, within the lifespan of the practice, be eligible for additional cost share funds.

Rural Life and Health

- Increase awareness of mental health resources and encourage broader availability of agriculture-

specific assistance.

- Support legislation and policies to provide stress assistance programs and resources to farmers, increase farmer-facing training opportunities, increase awareness and reduce stigma for rural mental health issues.

Infrastructure

- Increase resources to expand rural access to reliable, high-speed broadband service.
- Ensure the timely rollout of authorized infrastructure funds and ensure resources are responsibly and efficiently allocated to rebuild, repair and modernize transportation infrastructure, including rural roads and bridges, ports, inland waterway locks and dams.
- Increase federal investment in agricultural research.

Taxes

- Secure permanent estate tax and capital gains tax law that allows family-owned farms to transfer from one generation to another.
- Make low-income tax rates and business deductions permanent to permit farmers to keep more of their earnings and invest in their businesses.
- Lock in tax code provisions that allow farm and ranch operations to match expenses with income so they can manage the seasonal and cyclical nature of their businesses.

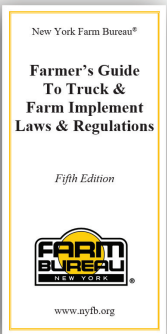
Trade

- Expand trade opportunities for New York agriculture and reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade.
- Encourage the U.S. to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership agreement.
- Maintain the China Phase 1 agreement and ensure it is implemented.
- Seek continued implementation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, including produce plan implementation.
- Engage in trade negotiations with the United Kingdom and other nations.
- Advance reform of the World Trade Organization.

A digital copy of the National Priorities issue sheet containing these items will be available at NYFB’s website: <https://www.nyfb.org/advocacy/legislative-affairs>.

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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OR, call NYFB’s Member Support Team at 1-800-342-4143 with a credit card

PROPAGATE

From Page 1

projects across the country, not necessarily ag-related. In a sign of things to come, Ethan was part of the Super Bowl 50 Sustainability Initiative.

Harrison Greene, aka Harry, came out of the University of Vermont with an eye on an Olympic berth in the pentathlon. Upon missing that dream, he went back to Vermont to get a graduate degree in his other passion, tree crops and sustainable agriculture. On his Team USA page, it mentions such interests and that his favorite food was anything he could grow himself (another omen).

Similar Passions

All three had similar passions about not only healthy, nutrient dense foods, but the impact on the soils, environment, and the globe. They all shared this same vision of how to build ecologically healthy landscapes that could supply equally healthy food. At that time, the mid 2010s, the new buzz words in agriculture were soil health, regenerative ag, sustainability, and agroforestry, all right up their alley. As they traversed the countryside across the United States, they asked themselves how can they have an impact. The friends put their heads together and launched Propagate Ventures, specializing in agroforestry, in 2017.

As Ethan put it, “When we first started thinking about it, if we demand healthy food we should also demand really healthy landscapes and ecosystems. We looked at the bottlenecks of regenerative agriculture and realized that trees are an important pillar in the ecosystem that are currently not being addressed. So we asked: how can farmers and producers have an opportunity to utilize trees as part of the regenerative agriculture toolkit?”

A Multi-faceted Approach

Propagate Ventures is a company like no other I have ever seen, with a fresh approach to all those buzz words mentioned above. Where we traditionally think of agroforestry as moving agriculture into a woodlot or forest, their idea is to move the forest, woodlot, or tree crops onto the farm, integrating and growing tree and bush crops, biomass, or other fast producing wood products within what we consider our traditional ag crops. This is a multi-faceted approach that covers several important issues and reasons. The efficient use of our land in terms of space (vertical farming per se), increase revenues per acre, and helping the environment through carbon sequestration and soil health to name a few.

Propagate Ventures was founded to help folks set up, retrofit and/or add efficiency to their ag businesses, all while keeping an eye on the environmental impacts and benefits. As Ethan put it, “Our role is an enabling one, we’re focused on enabling more services, businesses, and stakeholders to get involved in this growing industry.” They use both physical



SPECIAL/PROPAGATE VENTURES

Above: A chestnut/black currant alley cropping in the Hudson Valley. Below: Chestnut/black currant alley cropping while making hay in the Hudson Valley

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Propagate Ventures

www.propagateventures.com

and analytical means to serve their clients. On the analytical side, they have developed a proprietary software program known as Overyield. The program can map out fields to the inch with current and potential crops, and project input and labor costs as well as yields and revenues. It is cutting edge technology that is reviewed and updated to keep with current conditions and available technology.

A Full-Service Provider

On the physical side, Propagate Ventures is a full-service provider for their clients, if need be, with equipment needed to get the job done. They also now have a “home farm,” located near Trumansburg in north-west Tompkins County. It is a working farm, mostly for research and development, where they practice what they preach, but also keep a nursery of varieties of the different and unique fruit, nut and other trees for their positive genetic qualities for future use either in breeding or propagation for current and future jobs. A database of specialized nurseries across the country also keeps them well informed as to what is out there. They currently are working in 13 states representing over 40 farms and over 20,000 acres.

Some of their projects include planting fruit or nut trees with wider spacing to allow cropping in the alleys, or growing willow biomass to be used for silvopasturing of cattle. Also, working with riparian buffers of any of the above while improving water quality in streams and gaining a revenue source, planting cider apple trees among an asparagus crop, using black currents anywhere and everywhere. They are part of the movement to bring back the chestnut trees. If you can imagine it and



SPECIAL/PROPAGATE VENTURES

it involves trees, Propagate Ventures can probably make it happen.

Steady Growth for Company

The company has shown very steady growth since its inception almost five years ago, and it is picking up steam each year, as word gets out of their great work. Their staff has tripled from the original three of Ethan (CEO), Jeremy (COO) and Harry (CIO) to their current nine, which includes a couple of software engineers. They work with several organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, Terra Genesis International, the Regrarians, and the Buckminster Fuller Institute. They have a board of five advisors and a committee of nine strategic advisors covering all aspects of technology, finance, and agriculture from every corner of the country. I think they are serious about their mission and goals!

Their clients run the gamut of the agriculture, agroforestry industry and beyond, from existing dairy, vegetable and fruit farms to landowners looking for new income streams from their fallow land or just wanting to help out with the environmental movement for the good of the land and the planet. With the environmental movement so strong,

they have a solid investor base that can help fund these projects and aid the landowners that want to do the right thing sustainably and morally but like most in the farming community are operating on small margins.

As I interviewed Ethan and Harry about Propagate Ventures, several things really came to light. Not only were they using all the hot buzz words that any good marketer would use, but they actually meant everything they said and truly believe in all of it and want to do their part in not only saving the planet, but also pushing certain aspects of agriculture in a new direction that is sustainable into the future.

As much as we would like to pair those words, sustainability and agriculture, it has been a difficult task especially as of late.

The better part of the interview, as we got to know each other a little, is that they are really good guys, humble in their work, and driven to succeed for themselves, agriculture, and the environment. They see the big picture, not in pieces but as an integrated organism. Perhaps if more people stepped back, looked around them and considered things that way, we would all be better off ... and sustainable.

Grassroots Farmers Market

Classified Ads are Free for NYFB Members

HAY

HAY FOR SALE. Tubed round bales of oatlage and 3rd cutting alfalfa mix balayage; 1st & 2nd cutting Savannah-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, NY Sullivan County. 845-482-4797 for info.

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

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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

HAY FOR SALE. 1 & 2nd cut hay. 4x4 round bales. Stored inside. 518-321-2886

HAY FOR SALE. Clover baleage for sale. 2nd, 3rd and 4th cutting. \$70/bale. Cow grain for sale. 607-533-7580

HAY FOR SALE. 1st and 2nd cutting and balage. Large rounds. Broome County. 607-725-5511

TRACTORS, MACHINERY

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

JOHN DEERE

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, NY.

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

JD 3970 FORAGE HARVESTER 2 row corn head, very good hay head. Good machine. \$12,500; JD 7700 4WD PS, good rubber, wheel weight, front weights, \$29,000. Call 315-387-7014 Leave message.

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

FARMALL

MCCORMICK FARMALL CUB serial# 222673J, 60” belly mower and snow blower. Erie County. \$4,000. Fred at 716-337-3679

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.

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

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER McCormick #7 fertilizer spreader, excellent condition, \$950.00 or BO. 19 ft. Cargo Box \$450.00 or BO. Call: 315-699-2200

IH 786 Straight, good TA, 358 German with turbo, Dual remote, dual pto. 18.4.38 \$9500. 518-222-6291

DOZERS/LOADERS

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

Grassroots Farmers Market

CAT 953 LOADER, good condition, 3 in 1 bucket. Exc. Tracks and undercarriage \$24,000 obo; CAT 926M-2017. SIN LTE04397, 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

“HESSTON” LOADER For Hesston 55-66 tractor. Two sets of mounting brackets so loader can fit other tractors. \$1500 obo. 518-753-0406

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

SAFETY WANTED: Older tractors seeking Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) look no further! Call 1-877-767-7748 The National ROPS Rebate Program helps locate ROPS and rebate 70% of the cost to retrofit!

OEM MASSEY, Gleaner, New Idea, White, AGCO, & Challenger parts. 0% financing on Hesston and Massey Ferguson round balers, mowers & most hay tools. www.mabiebro.com or 315-687-7891

CALL US FOR KRONE hay tools and parts. Tedders and Rakes in stock. www.mabiebro.com or 315-687-7891

VERMEER FARM EQUIPMENT New and Used hay & forage equipment for sale. SALES, PARTS & SERVICE. Only Vermeer dealer in New York. 315-253-6269 www.mainandpinckney.com.

HAINS BOX DUMPER/ Elevator Hopper \$5500. Roller table \$800. MARCRO- Plastic bins 34-FV \$80/each; DECADE AgrMAX boxes 1500lb capacity \$65. 914-804-4195

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

TEW SERIES 2540 MODEI NR Sorting table; Receiver belt, Washer, Absorber, Rollover conveyor, (2) sizing units, (2) side tables, rotary table. Label printer EZ2250 Thermal Transfer **PRINTER, MINI-CAT-10A** Universal Label Rewinder, Seagull Scientific’s bar tender label software and (2) label applicators. Brightwater Farms, LLC 631-655-5411 or Llaccounting@brightwaterfarms.com.

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.

1940 CLETRAC HG good condition \$3500; DEARBORN 3 pt hitch sickle bar mower, needs work \$500; LINCOLN Ranger 9 welder on trailer, cow movers very nice. 518-234-2683

STEEL ROLLER CONVEYORS. 10’x1’, \$65; 7’x1’, \$45. Multiple units. Excellent look almost new. 190, 12” x 16 solid concrete blocks, (palleted) never cemented \$280. Pictures on Syracuse Craigslist. Cicero, NY 315-699-4157 or 315-935-4293.

USED FULL 7-INCH SYRUP PRESS with new air diaphragm pump \$1750; 2000 gallon glass lined tank with large manholes \$2500. 607-264-3225

800 KELLEY LOADER with Quick Attach boom, 84” bucket. Will fit most water cooler Belarus Tractor. Price reduced to \$2,000. 2 used tires and rims 11.2 28’s \$200 each. 1 tire and tube 3.0 x 2.0 new \$200. 2 tires and rims 8.30 x 20 used \$100 each. 1 front rim 11.2 x 20. \$250 price reduced. 1 front rim used 11.2 x 20 \$150. 315-699-2459

LEADER EVAPORATOR RO Model #2. New, never used. Call 315-858-0368 for price.

BRILLION 16’ CULTIMULCHER, exc. cond.; International 3250 fits 66 or 86 tractors; Farmall B tractor original, runs and drives, 30’ 6” auger electric on wheels. 315-335-0629

IH 475 DISC 18’, 22” blades \$4500; IH 315 cultimulcher 13’ \$2500. LANDOLL shank type chisel \$1200; Case 400 5-bottom plow vari-width \$2500; Case 90 Loader \$800. 518-399-1893

BELLY MOWER MODEL 914 fits a FORD 1520 \$500; CASE VAC \$1500; Gaggle of Gravelys 1 – L8 2 – LS, snowblower, 30” mower, 2 rotary plows all \$600. 518-372-0936 after 6pm

FORD 4 BOTTOM PLOW, Ford 4 row corn planter, Wheel hay rack. 607-988-6662

OLIVER 1655 DIESEL TRACTOR, engine overhauled \$6,000; Farmall 400, 12-volt system, hydraulics, 1 owner \$2,500. Call Tony or Marie 843-672-9794

COMPLETE BOUMATIC cow ID system including two 3554142 power supplies, two 3554988 red ID control, two 3557197 antenna arch, one 3557377 2050 controller & +/- 1100 tags. 607-849-3291

VACUUM COOLER FOR SALE, 3 pallet capacity, runs on 3-phase or generator. Overhauled and painted. VGC. \$80,000. 631-734-4219

AG-RAIN IRRIGATION WHEEL. All new hoses included. PTO driven pump. Make offer. 1,000, 2,500 and 3,000 gallon fertilizer /water tanks. Excellent condition.\$500 for the 1,000 tank; \$1,500 for 2,500 gallon and \$1,800 for the 3,000 size. 518-875-6248

HARDI AIR BLAST SPRAYER Model 255, 50 gal tank, 3 pt hitch pto. Kept inside. 518-477-4841

1966 IH PULL-TYPE #82 Combine, excellent condition, never been outside, original paint. Also have 2 plastic water tanks. 1- 60 gallon \$175 and 1 – 250 gallon \$290. 518-852-5726 kdrmdr453@gmail.com.

MAPLE SYRUP Barrel Evaporator lined with fire brick, 55gal barrel, preheater, stainless steel pan. Saratoga Cty \$500 518-882-9635

BEARCAT 950 Grinder/Mixer. Always kept inside. Lots of additional screens. Franklin, NY area. \$4,000 obo. Also have PVC silo pipe. Make offer. 607-829-5592

1981 GMC FLOATER, lime spreader. 3208 CAT motor, auto trans, 15’ new leader spreader box, Ravens GPS \$21,000; NEW LEADER 30” x 18’ belt-over chain. Apron chain. New. Still on pallet. \$4700. 585-451-2019

MQ WHISPERWELD 3 cylinder Kubota diesel 300 AMP Welder. 10KW AC Generator. Excellent condition, like new. Very low hours (551 hrs) on road trailer also in excellent condition. \$4300 OBO. 585-764-3917

GEHL 1085 CHOPPER, processor, metal-alert, 4 heads, spout extension. 3 GEHL roofed and tandem wagons. GEHL 1540 blower. 1060 GEHL chopper for parts. Always shed kept. Will separate. 315-269-0861

TIRES/RIMS

SET FIRESTONE 23 DEGREES 18.4x38 w/ tubes, \$400. A single Galaxy 13.6x38, new, \$500. Set of 38 rims, new, fits farm all, \$300. Set of Galaxy 18.4x34 Earth Pro 45, new, \$1,300.00. Set of Firestone 20.8xR38 radial all traction, 23 degrees, good 4 duels, \$100. Please call 716-628-4470. All in Niagara County.

NEW REAR TRACTOR RIM – size 12 wide 38 round. Drop Center rim \$350; Silo Winch with Gear Reduction – Make Offer. 315-782-6226

FIRESTONE SUPER ALL Traction Field & Road Bias ply tires. 2 – 20.8x38 8ply; 2 – 16.9 x 26 10 ply 60% tread. \$200 each. Take one or take all. Saratoga County. 518-424-3324

MOWING

2017 KUHN GMD 24 mounted 8’ rotary mower, VGC, extra parts. Pictures available or view at farm in Watkins Glen. \$6500 firm. Call/text 607-742-3657 or bchedzoy@yahoo.com.

DR PRO FIELD BRUSH MOWER, 26” cut. Briggs & Stratton engine, 14.5hp. Model 310000 \$2,000; Natures Comfort outside wood boiler. Model H3256 fire box is ¼” steel, heats 10k sq. ft. \$3,000; looking for used bolt on Kubota backhoe 607-776-4777

BAD BOY MOWERS – Commercial and residential at Bob’s Bad Boy mowers. 6419 Middle Road Munnsville, NY 315-264-2781. Call for details. Mow with an attitude!

WAGONS

HAY WAGON, running gear, heavy duty, older but in good shape. Also, 15 old steel wheels, various sizes. In Greene County. Berny at 518-731-8880

2005 PEQUEA FEEDER WAGON \$3,000. 607-962-1477

LAMCO SELF-UNLOADING WAGON with roof. 12 ton tandem with fast hitch pole \$2500 obo. Good working condition. Also have 1993 Mack dump truck vgc. \$12,000 obo. 716-707-2062

PLANTERS/PICKERS/SHELLERS

BELT DRIVEN CORN SHELLER, red. Works. Brand unknown. \$150 Schaghticoke, NY 518-753-4402

OLD MILL GREENHOUSE flat seeder. Model 615-2 or 3 in reasonable working condition. Info@sabellico.com or 845-226-5943 ask for Randy-Matt or Ray

ORCHARD AND BERRY SPRAYER, narrow profile, 3 fan Curtec tower. Fan position and air speed adjustable. Hiniker controlled, all hydraulic. Ex. For smaller operation. \$10,000; Post pounder Shafer fork-mounted, hydraulic. Excellent for 8 footers but not for 12

footers. \$1500. 585-451-1465

IH 18X7 5100 GRAIN DRILL – single disk; JD 7200 MaxEmerge2 – 12 row vacuum corn planter – dry fertilizer; JD 327 Sting Baler with #30 thrower. All in good condition. Waterloo, NY. 315-283-8873

NEW IDEA 324 wide-row corn picker. Shed kept. \$2,000 716-949-9884

6 AND 8 INCH AUGERS for sale. 315-727-8347 or 315-430-4961.

GRAIN EQUIPMENT. 8in and 6 in augers. 1-1 Hp fan and 1-7 Hp fan. 20’ x 12” wide rubber belt elevator. 315-638-0308

HAY EQUIPMENT

HESSTON 8200 self-propelled haybine. 14 ft sickle bar head, diesel engine, hydrostatic drive, air conditioning, radio, around 1700 hrs. and in fair condition. \$5000. 716-433-3370

HAY EQUIPMENT; Class 650 twin liner rake, very nice \$16,500 obo. Class 800 TH Tedder, mint \$16,500 obo. Kuhn 4220 TH new \$8500 obo. All low use, always inside. Erie County. 716-913-6313

REMLINGER BALE SLICER. Used 1 season. \$2200. 716-640-6677

NH 12’ HAYBINE; Hesson 9’ Haybine; Hay tedder/rake; 3 wagons, NH twine baler; New Cosmo 500 seeder; old potato wagon. Much more equipment. Call for info. 585-352-4511

NH FORAGE HARVESTER, long pole, electric controls. Parts or use. 2 row corn head \$1500; JD 300 husker \$2500. All stored inside. 845-784-6423 call or text.

60 FT HAY CONVEYOR on wheels (not road worthy), has electric motor \$500; Tractor tire chains, 5 different size sets \$100/each, 5 Front Tractor weights, 50lbs each \$20/each. Please leave a message for John 315-662-7961

6710 CHOPPER 4 row corn, 10ft hay processor, 3 Miller pro rear unload wagons, Case 7130, 7110, retired. Call 315-771-1138

TILLERS/BLOWERS/GENERATORS

MULTIQUIP 300 AMP. Welder/10kw generator. 3 cyl. Kubota diesel. In excellent condition and very low hours (551). On road gear. \$5,600 or best reasonable offer. Dan 585-764-3917

BRAND NEW TROYBILT TILLER. 208cc. 18” wide dual direction tines. Used 6 hours. Must sacrifice. \$900. 607-634-4606 leave message.

SAMASZ SNOW BLOWER. Tornado 250 Front or rear tractor (90hp) linkage. Blows to 98 feet or loads. \$6500 obo. 315-677-3332

ONAN GENERATOR – 12.5kw, low hours. Saratoga Cty. \$350 518-882-9635

TANKS/BULK/WATER

WATER TANK 12,000 GALLON stainless steel, horizontal; flail mower 8ft, pull type. Call or text 716-258-8287

120 GALLON RETENTION TANK – WellMate model UT120 composite tank, good condition \$300 obo. Syracuse/ Cortland area. 315-696-6722

STOVES/OIL/COAL/FURNACES

JOHNSON WOODBURNING STOVE. Oneida County 315-796-2109

YUKON WOOD OIL Furnace. Good condition. Glehnef Steel Tracks, like new. Electric Lazy Boy reclining chair, very good. 585-765-2500

COAL FURNACE 2 burner with thermostat

Grassroots Farmers Market

control. Air jacket and 14-inch diameter duct to ceiling, 200 lb. hopper, \$300 obo. (607) 659-4720 leave message.

WANTED

POTATO DE-SPROUTERS. Multiple units needed. 585-638-6461

PARTS FOR JOHN DEERE 350c wide track dozer. Extension axle for wide track only. Goes between sprocket and final drive flange. 315-691-3514

LOOKING TO PURCHASE stone troughs, grist mill stones and old garden gates. 201-906-2135 or eeacciardi@aol.com

USED GRAIN SILO for architectural salvage. 12-16 or 20 ft diameter, not too tall. 518-651-9322 or 518-497-6405 northviewqh@gmail.com.

CORN PLANTER 2 row 3pt hitch and Pumpkin seeder. 716-337-3162

HAY TROLLEYS from farms/barns in western, NY. Alan 585-451-2019

LOOKING FOR as much as a pickup load of **BARLEY STRAW** in small bales for pond algae control. Ray Lgourd@aol.com or 716-946-4487 call/text.

USED JOHN DEERE TE 4x2 Gator Electric UTV or comparable model by other manufacturer. Must be in good working condition. 716-868-4595 or trlovallo@gmail.com

VEHICLES/RV/BOAT/TOW TRAILERS

2007 FORD F550 POWERSTROKE DIESEL, 4WD, Switch N Go dump, exc. Cond., 5 speed manual, 34k original miles \$30,000 obo 914-949-4100 or gedneyfarmsnursery@gmail.com

1938 FORD 1 TON PICK-UP. True barn find. Stored over 45 years. Flathead motor, all original. Not running, very solid truck. \$4500. Suffolk County, L.I. 631-833-8800

FORD GRAIN TRUCK 16' BOX STEEL. Air brakes, diesel cat engine. Good shape, good rubber. Call for price. 585-506-7300

1986 EAGER BEAVER 9DOW flatbed trailer, 22,000lbs GVW. Trailer is in excellent mechanical condition. Could use a coat of pain and new deck. Will supply new oak planks for deck. \$3500 914-582-1117

1986 MACK R MODEL - good farm truck - 300 HP 9 speed transmission; 44 thousand rears; good rubber. Located in Allegany, NY. Asking \$6,500.00. Call 716-378-8801.

JD 350 TRACK LOADER, runs good, needs work. \$4500 OBO. 607-655-1636 evenings only.

EQUINE

ULSTER COUNTY HORSE COUNCIL. 501 @ 3 chapter of NYS Horse Council. Follow us on Facebook & uchc-ny.org. .

NYS HORSE COUNCIL Celebrating over 50 years, established 1968! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. www.nyshc.org.

COME JOIN OR WATCH our reining shows and clinics: Details and dates on CNYRHA.com See us on Facebook.

BOARDING/LESSONS

HORSE BOARDING: Aubrey House Farm in Copake, NY offers indoor and outdoor arenas, trails, ample turn-out, various boarding options and 24-hr supervision. 518-325-1287

DUTCH MANOR STABLE – Since 1967. Where quality board, training & instruction are a Capital District tradition. Large heated indoor and outdoor riding arenas. USHJA certified instruction. 518-456-5010 www.

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LUKENS STABLES – nationally known trainers of American Saddlebreds, Hackneys – road horses. Also boarding for retirees & broodmares. Excellent run-in facility, lessons by appointment. Ravena, NY. 518-756-9777

ISLAND HILLS STABLE for all your equestrian needs. Boarding-training, we specialize in lay-ups also have a selection of horses & ponies for sale or lease. Excellent turnouts with 24 hr care, large matted stalls fully bedded, large indoor & 3 large outdoor lighted rings. Lessons for all levels, Clinics, USEF rated horseshows year-round. Islandhills@optonline.net or 631-924-4046

HORSES BOARDED: Room for 2. Run-in/Stalls and pasture. Retired or in work. Outdoor arena and trails. Three Seasons Farm, Treadwell, NY 607-829-6678

UPHILL DRESSAGE CENTER. Full-service boarding/training available at established dressage stable in Dutchess County, NY. All the bells and whistles! Trainers on premises or bring your own. Elisabeth 914-450-0413

CHESTNUT RIDGE STABLE: Attentive care provided at Cambridge, NY facility offering indoor and outdoor boarding. Ample turnout, indoor and outdoor riding arenas and trails on the 100+ acre farm. Lessons available for boarders. crstable@gmail.com 518-677-3545

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ARABIANS AND HALF-ARABIANS for sale! Well mannered, family friendly Sugar Hill Farm show horses bred here and started under saddle. Betsy Kubiak 585-924-8240 or visit Victor, NY. info@sugarhillarabians.com. www.sugarhillarabians.com.

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AMISH BUILT RABEN SINGLE Horse cart. Blue with white stripes. Exc. Cond. 40yrs old. Used 3 times and then stored inside ever since. \$1,500 firm. 315-688-2964

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REG. BLACK ANGUS BULL. Owned three years, never had an open cow. \$3000 obo. Willing to truck. John at 518-231-8087 or centralbridgefarms@yahoo.com.

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CHAMPION WHITE DORPER RAMS with top genetics and electronically-proven weight gain data ready to improve any flock! Excellent maternal instincts and health. Pleasant interactions! Two Rock Ranch. Tworockranch@gmail.com. 1-707-364-7547

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PUREBRED KIKO PERFORMANCE BUCKS. Excellent bloodlines from Dr. Ann Pieschel. Goats Unlimited. Healthy and hardy bucks of various ages and colors from a closed herd. Upgrade your kiko herd or add hybrid vigor to other breeds with the Kiko Advantage for \$600. Ask about our started packages! www.Roll-n-HillsRanch.com or Ken at 607-760-5660. Johnson City, NY.

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PUREBRED DORPER RAMS, Commercial and Registered. All from great bloodlines and will be an excellent addition to your flock. Kristin at 315-868-2880 or k_updike@yahoo.com.

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PUREBRED BERKSHIRE BOARS for sale. 6 breeding age, purebred boars, 250lbs plus, ready to go. Thick, heavily muscled. Steve 315-313-2013, please leave message.

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AKBASH Livestock Guardian dogs: We sleep at night because they don’t! Experienced dogs and pups available, working sheep, goats and alpacas. Breeder support for all owners.

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LLAMAS – we offer animals that can fill a variety of purposes; a loveable companion, show animal, pack, guard, or a source of exquisite fiber. www.dakotaridgefarm.com, llamawhisp@aol.com. Ballston Spa, NY.

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RED OAK BOARDS – 1” thick, rough cut, 6’,8’ and 10” width by 8 to 10ft long. Hand hewn beams 8-10” width by 10-20ft long. 518-864-5741

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THE WAGNER COMPANIES. Purchasers of hardwood logs, standing timber and forest lands. Forest Management & Timber Appraisals by Certified Foresters. Seven locations from Allegany to Boonville, The Wagner Companies procurement department has a certified forester or log buyer ready to serve you. www.wagnerlumber.com. 607-687-5362

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STEP BACK into the 19th century at Raked South Garden Bed and Breakfast. See the orchard in season from your 2nd floor room. Call Dottie at 315-589-8012

A HIDDEN OASIS, not visible from the road, Saint Hubert’s Lodge & Club is unlike any other Bed and Breakfast in the Hudson River Valley, Reserve your overnight stay today! Sainthuberts lodge.com or 845-795-0037

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HANDCRAFTED SPIRITS from our family farm distillery make great holiday gifts! Free tours and tastings every weekend afternoon year-round at Old Home Distillers Co., 964 Campbell Road, Lebanon, NY 13332. 315-837-4123 or visit www.OLDHOMEDISTILLERS.COM

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BLACK BUTTON DISTILLING is pleased to offer all NY Farm Bureau Members FREE Spirits Tasting and Factory Tour at our Rochester Distillery and Tasting Room; \$5 off any 750ml bottle of spirits purchased and the Room Fee waived for any events held at our Tasting rooms. Please stop in and see what NY Farmed spirits are all about. 85 Railroad Street, Rochester NY 14609 585-730-4512 or www.SevenFifty.com/BlackButton.

SPIRITS! Stop into Four Fights Distilling in Corning, NY. Open Thur-Sun. Check out our website at www.fourfightsdistilling.com. Located at 363 E. Market Street, Extension. Corning, NY 14830 Bourbon, Gin, Vodka, and more!

STOUTRIDGE VINEYARD & DISTILLERY in Marlboro, NY offers a 10% discount on all bottle purchases to Farm Bureau members. 10 Ann Kaley Lane, Marlboro, NY 12542. See our website for details and offerings. www.stoutridge.com.

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RUSTIC WEDDING VENUE. Located in Plattsburgh, NY – Elfs Farm and Cider House offers a unique and captivating setting for your ceremony, reception and photographs. Email events@elfsfarm.com or 518-563-2750

GATHERINGS/EVENTS

Millers Mills Grange Ice Harvest – Ice cutting with old-fashioned hand tools. Visitor participation, sleigh rides, refreshments. 11 AM, Sunday, February 13, 2022. Free admission, parking. Southern Herkimer County. Weather permitting. www.millersmillsny.com or (315) 822-6860.

AG PRODUCTS

SPRINGWATER AG PRODUCTS. 8663 Strutt St. Wayland, NY. Helping farmers save since 2004. Farm tested with farm-friendly prices. Please call for a quote. Dave at 585-315-1094 or Penny at 607-759-0405

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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

25,000 FEET OF 4” IRECO PIPE and 60,000 feet of 2” Tico pipe. Risers are 18” with Rain Bird 11/64” tips. 4” pipe \$1.50/ft and 2” pipe \$1.00/ft. Dave 585-303-5410

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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FARMSTEAD CHEESE: HOLIDAY GIFT BOXES. We milk 20 cows to produce our cheeses in the Adirondacks. This year we are shipping boxes across the US! The options are at www.northcountrycreamery.com under the Purchase tab.

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BULK FRESH Apple Cider Available. Custom blends, tanker loads. First pressed, Raw Untreated. Minard Farms Beverage Company, Inc. 7th generation family Cider Mill. Clintondale, NY 845-883-7102. Christina DeMaio, Sales.

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RAW HONEY – by the pail or case. 60lb pail \$160, 24lb pail \$64, 12lb pail \$36. 5lb case (6 jars) \$115, 1lb case (12 jars) \$46. Call for shipping costs. Ford’s Honey Farm 1883 Castle Road. Newport, NY 13416. 315-891-3339

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POULTRY MANURE. \$10/yard. Pick up or delivery. Analysis available. 845-482-5464 Dan.

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SAWDUST \$10/YRD @ the Mill. 607-687-1539 Robinson Lumber LLC, Owego, NY.

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NEARLY 90-ACRE SHEEP FARM with a meticulously maintained modern country home. Built in 2010, the house boasts 3,100sq-ft with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. A gourmet chef kitchen features granite countertops and solid, custom cherry cabinets. Patio doors overlook rolling fields and a manicured backyard. A pole barn with room for storage and trails throughout make this property a true country gem. Call Allen at 315-682-4500 to set up a showing today or Online at NYLand.forsale. MLS# s1350043.

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290 ROLLING ACRES in town of Warwick, outside village of Warwick; great potential for haying, orchards, livestock. Four small houses on property; zoned Agricultural. 65 miles to NYC. Chris at 845-986-7314

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MISCELLANEOUS

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USDA invests \$9M to Expand Reach, Increase Adoption of Climate-Smart Practices

USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced a \$9 million investment in new Cooperative Extension and USDA Climate Hubs partnerships to bolster climate research and connect and share climate-smart solutions directly with the agricultural community.

This investment is part of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the nation's leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences. This new AFRI program area provides effective, translatable and scalable approaches to address climate change through regional partnerships, including the USDA Climate Hubs, and further extends outreach through organizations such as the Cooperative Extension Service.

The initial six funded projects include:

- **University of California (Davis)** will develop multifaceted pathways with the California Climate Hub to climate-smart agriculture through stakeholder needs assessments, climate-smart agriculture trainings for technical service providers, regional workshops for farmers and ranchers, and student education with Extension service-learning opportunities. Participatory program development and delivery through extensive network of stakeholders, collaborators and supporters are at the core of this integrated proposal. (\$1,500,000)

- **Pennsylvania State University** will create an education program to help private forests adapt and mitigate climate change, prepare minority owners to take advantage of carbon market opportunities, and prepare the forestry extension workforce to better serve their clients in forest carbon and climate issues, in collaboration with the Northern Forests and Southeast Climate Hubs. (\$1,500,000)


- **Montana State University** will collaborate with the Southwest and Northern Plains Climate Hub staff and regional education and extension stakeholders to develop improved educational materials, modes of communication, and issue expertise that

will help in assisting farmers and ranchers to better assess the sources of past crop and livestock production losses due to weather and climate disruption, as well as explore future projections for these causes of loss. (\$1,500,000)

- **Ohio State University** is partnering with the Midwest Climate Hub and multiple universities to increase Midwest adoption of regionally scalable climate-smart activities. The project will improve shared understanding of needs of the Midwest's diverse stakeholders, develop shared roadmaps for livestock and cropping systems, elevate perspectives and voices of historically underserved communities including black and indigenous communities, and strengthen climate science infrastructure through a re-imagined Extension-Midwest Climate Hub partnership. (\$1,500,000)


- **The Desert Research Institute Native Climate** (Reno, Nevada) project team will strengthen the role of USDA Climate Hubs in Indian country by enhancing Native agroecosystem resilience through expansion of climate services and outreach in the Southwest and Northern Plains Climate Hub regions. Activities are designed to foster trust between Climate Hubs and Native farmers, ranchers, and resource managers through equitable and culturally appropriate information sharing, putting community at the center of solutions for climate change and food and nutrition security. (\$1,500,000)

- **The USDA Caribbean Climate Hub** is partnering with minority-serving universities, including the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands Extension, and non-profits to help historically underserved communities throughout the U.S. Caribbean and other coastal areas adapt to a rapidly changing climate and extreme weather events. They will develop education and Extension programs aimed at increasing climate literacy as well as helping land managers employ climate-smart agriculture and forestry techniques. Educational materials will be created in Spanish and English. (\$1,500,000)



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ADDRESS

From Page 1

- Maintaining and growing hemp production in the state

All these items must be addressed during this year’s state budget process, which must be finalized between the Governor and the Legislature by April 1 and we await implementing budget language and

HEARINGS

From Page 1

how this would ultimately hurt their workers who will lose hours, income, and opportunities.

Several farmworkers testified as well that they are worried about their futures on the farm. Many said how the jobs provide them with a good paycheck with the ability to take care of their families, build homes, and put their kids through school. They fear they may need a second job or leave New York State should the wage board drop the threshold to 40 hours.

The wage board, which includes NYFB President David Fisher, Former AFL-CIO President Denis Hughes, and the Department of Labor appointee, Brenda McDuffie, who chairs the board, heard additional reports from Cornell and Farm Credit East who explained in detail the increase in labor costs and the likely impacts a lower threshold will have. Cornell researchers interviewed dozens of workers, and 70% said they would likely leave the state. Meanwhile, 45% of dairy farmers cited in the Cornell report said they would delay or cancel planned investments and 40% would downsize or exit farming. The numbers were comparable for fruit and vegetable farmers where half of those interview indicated they would shrink their enterprises.

Farmworker advocacy groups and labor union representatives also testified largely trying to paint agriculture in negative light and pointing to California where a 40-hour threshold kicked in this year. It is too soon to have hard numbers from the west coast on impacts, but farmers tes-

appropriations in the Governor’s proposed budget, which is due the week of January 18.


While the Governor did include some policy position in these documents that seriously concern New York Farm Bureau, such as Extended Producer Recycling, this is a tremendous start for agriculture, and New York Farm Bureau looks forward to working on these issues over the coming months with the Governor and Legislature.

Cornell researchers interviewed dozens of workers, and 70% said they would likely leave the state. Meanwhile, 45% of dairy farmers cited in the report said they would delay or cancel planned investments and 40% would downsize or exit farming.

tified that they know of California operations that are purchasing farmland in Mexico where it is cheaper to farm. Many farmers also passionately pushed back on the false narrative painted by activists, highlighting the care they have for their employees, the benefits that are provided, and how the jobs have afforded their workers a better life.

Gov. Hochul’s proposed refundable tax credit for overtime pay that is in her state budget plan for the next fiscal year was also brought up in testimony. Though many said that the wage board should not take it into consideration when making any decision since the legislator still must weigh in on the proposal, and there is no guarantee of what it make look like if it is even in the final budget. Farmers also raised concerns about cash flow. They will still need to be able to pay the overtime before they would see any tax credit reimbursement a year or so down the road.

New York Farm Bureau will continue to update members on the outcome of the wage board through email alerts and in *Grassroots*.



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New National Poll Shows Encouraging Signs of Reduced Stigma Around Farmer Mental Health

AFBF

Farmers and people in rural areas are more comfortable talking about stress and mental health challenges with others, and stigma around seeking help or treatment has decreased in rural and farm communities but is still a factor, according to a new research poll from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

AFBF conducted the survey of rural adults and farmers/farmworkers to measure changes and trends in stigma, personal experiences with mental health, awareness of information about mental health resources and comfort in talking about mental health with others. The poll results were compared with previous surveys AFBF conducted in 2019 and 2020 focusing on farmer mental health, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on farmer mental health, respectively.

“This poll shows that we are making a difference, but we all still have work to do. It’s up to each of us to keep looking out for our family, friends and neighbors and let them know they’re not alone when they feel the increasing stress that comes with the daily business of farming and ranching,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

Morning Consult conducted the poll on behalf of AFBF in December 2021 among a national sample of 2,000 rural adults. Key findings include:

- **Stigma around seeking help or treatment for mental health has decreased but is still a factor, particularly in agriculture. Over the past year, there has been** a decrease in rural adults saying their friends/acquaintances (-4%) and people in their local community (-9%) attach stigma to seeking help or treatment for mental health. But a majority of rural adults (59%) say there is at least some stigma around stress and mental health in the agriculture community, including 63% of farmers/farm workers.
- **Farmers/farm workers are more comfortable talking to friends, family and their doctors about stress and mental health than they were in 2019.** Four in five rural adults (83%) and 92% of farmers/farm workers say they would be comfortable talking about solutions with a friend or family member dealing with stress or a mental health condition, and the percentage of farmers/farm workers who say they would be comfortable talking to friends and family members has increased 22% since April 2019.
- **A majority of rural adults (52%) and farmers/farm workers (61%) are experiencing more stress and mental health challenges compared to a year ago, and they are seeking care because of increased stress.** Younger rural adults are more likely than older rural adults to say they are experiencing more stress and mental health challenges com-



UNSPLASH

pared to a year ago, and they are more likely than older rural adults to say they have personally sought care from a mental health professional.

If you or someone you know is struggling emotionally or has concerns about their mental health, visit the Farm State of Mind website at

farmstateofmind.org for information on crisis hotlines, treatment locators, tips for helping someone in emotional pain, ways to start a conversation and resources for managing stress, anxiety or depression. Cornell University’s NY Farm Net is also available free of charge and completely confidential. For more information or to request assistance, call 1-800-547-3276 or visit www.nyarmnet.org and click the red “Contact” button.

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CLINTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Winter Wonderland

A Jan. 7 winter storm brought snow to many parts of New York State. Some NYFB members shared photos from their farms and operations under the frozen blanket.



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

A farm dog keeps watch over a flock at Double-H Sheep Company in St. Lawrence County.



SARATOGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

After a fresh snowfall at Timberline Farm in Saratoga County.



NY AG IN THE CLASSROOM

State Schools Compete in Top Cut Beef Contest

New York Ag in the Classroom

School lunch and creativity were synonymous in the fifth annual Top Cut Beef Contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. Sixty-seven classrooms competed to develop a beef recipe of their choice that could be served in their school cafeteria, while also working with their school’s food service personnel to identify the process of procuring, preparing, and providing a balanced school lunch. New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York Beef Council are pleased to announce the winners of the Top Cut Beef Contest.

Students created beef-centric recipes that their fellow students might enjoy from the school cafeteria. They were challenged to work with their school’s food service teams to learn about how schools procure their food, the budget limitations

that exist, and the nutritional requirements that should be followed. Students filmed their own commercials, drew logos, and wrote morning announcements to market their products. The entries from across the state were judged by a panel of beef producers and industry experts. Each entry was evaluated on the product, market analysis, marketing plan, and the beef nutrition analysis. The first-place classroom in each division received \$250, second place earned \$100, third place earns \$50, and all received a banner to display their achievement. The first-place schools also received a barbecue grill for their classroom from the New York Beef Council.

First place winners were Truxton Academy Charter School (Truxton, NY), C. S. Driver Middle School (Marcellus, NY) and Pavilion High School (Pavilion, NY).



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