

Madison County Farm Bureau

March 2022



President's Report



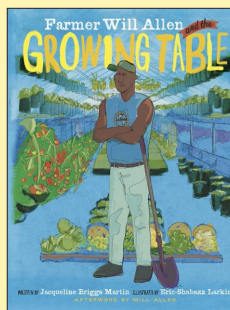
As we head towards March, I hope everyone has been having a good winter so far. I know snowmobilers have been enjoying it! Farm Bureau has been working hard on your behalf on a myriad of issues. One of the more unfortunate outcomes recently was the Wage Board decision to lower the overtime requirement to 40 hours. This will have serious negative impacts across our agricultural industry. Farm Bureau has been actively lobbying the governor's office to either reject the decision or find a suitable alternative. There is progress being made on this issue, but we all need to stay alert and be proactive. The state's CAFO permit is due to expire. This means that NYSDEC will be updating the permit. Members

who own CAFO operations should be alert for opportunities to comment. New York Farm Bureau held its annual meeting in person in Albany this past December. It was abbreviated, but the work got done. I wanted to relay one story that shines a light on how grassroots efforts work. A group of SUNY Morrisville students came to us with three resolutions they wanted approved. All three resolutions dealt with pouring rights. When schools bring soda into the education system, they sign exclusive contracts with Coke or Pepsi that does not allow any other bottled beverage to be sold at that facility. That means that a farm with a milk beverage cannot sell their product at these schools. The resolutions SUNY Morrisville students presented sought to allow dairy beverages to be exempt from these contracts as they are a much healthier alternative than soda. The resolutions were presented at our county annual meeting by these students - they were voted on and passed. Going forward, they were pared down to two by the State Resolutions Committee with one resolution passed at State Annual Meeting. These young men and women were able to see how the process worked from beginning to end and their success will certainly lead them on to do great things. I have no doubt that some will become involved in Farm Bureau.

This brings me to a final point--I find myself having to resign as president of Madison County Farm Bureau. I am relocating to the Ithaca area as I have changed jobs. I now work for Cornell University with the Land Grant Agricultural Experiment Station. This was a good move for myself and my family, but it is difficult to leave Madison County. No longer a resident of Madison County, I am unable to continue serving as president. I'm hoping to become involved in Tompkins County so that I can continue being an advocate for agriculture. I would like to leave with this message: a few years ago NY Farm Bureau developed a tag line--Every farmer needs Farm Bureau, and Farm Bureau needs every farmer. This is more true than ever. Farm Bureau is the biggest lobbying organization that works on behalf of farms

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

March 21-25, 2022



For the past 17 years, volunteers throughout the state have helped to celebrate New York agriculture by reading a book with an agricultural theme to elementary school students.

This year's featured book, *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*, written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin with art by Eric Shabazz Larkin, focuses on farmer Will Allen who is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he's

as tall as his truck, and can hold a cabbage, or a basketball, in one hand. Farmer Will sees what others can't, the opportunities for growing food whether you have 100 acres or a rooftop and shares the journey from soil to table with those around. This book will take students on an explorative journey learning about community gardens and inspire them to build communities through food, even if they only have a pot on their porch to cultivate. Hands-on activities related to the book are also offered to extend learning.

Madison County Farm Bureau is pleased to be sponsoring this program by purchasing books which will be donated to school or classroom libraries throughout the county. Last year 2,300 books were donated while 75,000 elementary students participated in an experiential learning activity throughout New York State.

[cont'd on page 3]

Madison County Ag Educators Recognized as Finalists for Nationwide's Golden OWL Award

Two local agriculture educators were recognized as finalists recently with the Nationwide 2021-2022 Golden Owl Award. Congratulations were extended to Hamilton Central Schools' Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor, Johanna Bossard, and SUNY Morrisville Agricultural Engineering Professor, Charles "Chip" Ax. Both were presented with a \$500 check and an engraved plaque and are now eligible to receive the Golden Owl grand prize of the coveted Golden Owl Award trophy, the designation as their state's 2021-2022 Ag Educator of the Year and a monetary prize of \$3,000 funded by Nationwide to support and encourage continued ag education efforts. The New York grand prize winner will be announced during the New York FFA State Convention in May.

In its second year in New York State, Nationwide, along with New York FFA and New York Farm Bureau, encourages students, faculty and community members to nominate an outstanding teacher. Selected agricultural educators can then be recognized for their tremendous contributions in preparing the next generation of young people for successful careers in the ag industry.



Pictured L-R: 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 (NY FFA) and William Dowsland (Superintendent of Hamilton Central Schools)



Pictured L-R: David Rodgers (President, Morrisville College); John Wagner (NYFB); Derek Hill (NY 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/VP Academic Affairs) and Anthony Contento (Dean of Agricultural Business & Technology)

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2022 Legislative Priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at State Annual Meeting held in December. These priorities reflect the collective interest of our members and rural communities and will determine the focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead.

- Double the Agricultural Workforce Retention Tax Credit
- Establish a refundable investment tax credit for agriculture.
- Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health (such as the Avian Disease Program), promotion, research, and environmental programs in the final FY 22/23 state budget, including a \$500 million Environmental Protection Fund.
- Support legislation that adjusts New York's unemployment insurance employer contribution rate, which would allow New York to replenish the UI trust fund without overburdening businesses with high UI tax bills as they recover from the pandemic.
- Support legislation allowing direct to consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and distillates.
- Support farmers in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change through funding of critical programs in the Environmental Protection Fund and legislative programs that support on-farm renewable energy.
- Support the development of solar energy that balances private property rights and current and future land needs of agriculture in the state. Whenever possible, prime soils and actively farmed lands should be avoided in favor of previously disturbed or fallow lands and rooftop development for distributed generation. Power should be generated more closely to where it is going to be used.
- Support investment in new meat, vegetable, fruit and seafood processing facilities in New York.
- Oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural pesticides.
- Oppose Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that doesn't require consumer responsibility of packaging they receive.
- Ensure a common-sense resolution to DEC's water withdrawal regulatory actions for farms.
- Pursue legislation that would require utilities to maintain a minimum height of 20 feet for power lines and 18 feet for other lines over farm fields upon request of landowner or farmer who is leasing the land.

MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

TRIVIA NIGHT CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022



HELD AT HAMPTON INN & SUITES
25 LAKERS LANE, CAZENOVIA

\$30 per person for
Dinner & Team Registration

Teams of 6-8 people 21 and over - Cash Bar

- Social Hour
- Silent Auction
- Dress Your Table/Team
- Catered Dinner
- Team Trivia Event



SHOW US YOUR CREATIVITY

Come prepared to
DRESS YOUR TABLE
 or **YOUR TEAM**
 as your favorite movie!

HOSTED BY: Madison County Farm Bureau
 Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee

Proceeds raised will go towards
FFA and 4-H youth programming

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

John Wagner at 315-761-9770
 or email jwagner@nyfb.org

DOORS OPEN
6:00 P.M.

REGISTER YOUR TEAM!

Team Name

Team Contact email

Participants

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Mail completed registration form and registration
 FEE (\$30 per team member) **by March 18** to:

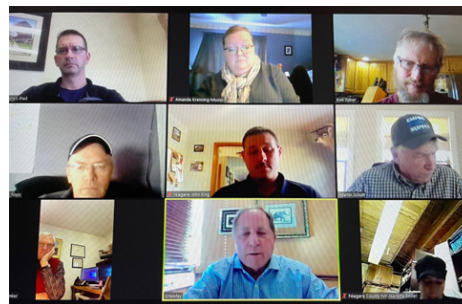
Bailey Coon
 877 State Route 13
 DeRuyter, NY 13052

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
Madison County Farm Bureau

NYFB LOBBY DAY GOES VIRTUAL

President's Report [cont'd from pg. 1]

and agriculture in general. There are major challenges coming--overtime at 40 hours, environmental regulations that are not based in science, inflationary costs, limited processing, and much more. We can't sit back and let someone else shoulder the burdens of advocacy. These things will affect your farms, and it is up to everyone to engage. Farm Bureau needs you not just in membership, but involvement. We have an active board that is passionate about agriculture. We engage heavily in youth development, fostering the next generation. We engage heavily on Lobby Days. But the board itself can't do it alone. As I depart, I would encourage you all to become engaged, not just members. If Farm Bureau is going to keep agriculture viable, it needs all farmers to help. Farmers need Farm Bureau to help maintain a viable agricultural industry in New York, but Farm Bureau needs all of your help to do it. I wish everyone farewell--no doubt I'll be running across many of you in the future!



NYFB's Lobby Day will be virtual this year due to the ongoing pandemic. Usually scheduled as a two-day trip into Albany, it is designed to help build connections and communicate the needs of agriculture to elected officials. Virtual meetings this year will make for an interesting opportunity, as some who aren't able to make an overnight to Albany might be able to join us virtually! Meetings will be scheduled over a span of days as we try to make scheduling a little easier on everyone. If you're interested in meeting with your elected officials "virtually" and representing Madison County Farm Bureau, contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770.

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



Madison County Farm Bureau



Madison County Farm Bureau Trivia
Team traveled to the Oneida County Ag
Trivia Night held Dec. 10 at Hart's Hill
Inn. The team was the first place winner!
Congratulations!

MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Shawn Bossard 315-679-8955

VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Coon..... 315-396-1549

DIRECTORS

Jo Stephenson 315-244-6151

Corey Mosher 315-750-9035

Anika Gianforte 585-813-3539

Scott O'Mara 315-243-6489

Dave Taylor (Membership) 315-416-3329

Johanna Bossard (Pro-Ed)..... 315-440-1044

Chelsey Mahany (YF&R) 315-480-6849

FIELD ADVISOR John Wagner 315-761-9770

CNY OFFICE Jill Williamson 315-252-1367

The Madison County Farm Bureau board meetings
every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the
Farm & Home Center, Morrisville.