

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



Orleans County Farm Bureau



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Orleans County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

John Kast, President .....	716-479-7996
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Anna Shuknecht, Treasurer .....	971-237-3006
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Sharon Smith, Pro-Ed Chair .....	585-967-0140
Matt Toussaint, YF&R Co-Chair .....	585-765-5011
Field Advisor, Amanda Krenning-Muoio.....	585-504-8308
Orleans County Farm Bureau.....	585-343-3489
420 E Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020	
NYFB Albany Office .....	1-800-342-4143

Our Board of Directors usually meets on the second Thursday of every month, except for May, June or July

Orleans  
County  
Farm Bureau

Spring 2022



President’s Message



I hope everyone is surviving the Winter and looking forward to Spring as much as I am. As I am writing this, your Orleans County Board members as well as the rest of the State are preparing for our upcoming Lobby days in March. Lobby days is our opportunity to sit down (in person or virtually) with not only our elected State representatives but adopted representatives from other parts of the State as well. This is our chance to put faces and personal experiences in front of representatives to help them understand our concerns, challenges and needs. A few of the items at the forefront of our meetings will be:

\* Maintaining the 60-hour work week for farmers. Governor Hochul still must vote on the recommendation to lower the threshold and we will continue to impress upon her and others the negative impact this will have not only for Agriculture in NY State but for the workers and the numerous businesses that rely on farms for their incomes.

\* Ask for continuing support for critical Agriculture funding in the NYS budget. There are several crucial programs statewide in agricultural education, promotion, research, and livestock health that are included in the State budget annually and need continued support for the benefit of all of NY State. Promotion and research funding for vegetables, apples, berries, grapes, maple, honey, dairy, wine, and craft beverages among other commodities. Continued support for important programs like Nourish-NY which provides nutritious food to thousands of New Yorkers across the state.

These are just two of the items we will be discussing with our representatives. They are also items that you can help voice your concerns on through the NYFB web page. Just visit [nyfb.org/engagements](https://nyfb.org/engagements) to read more and utilize the opportunity to E-Lobby and add your voice to other members across the state.

It is our experiences which will help Legislators understand what affects us, our livelihoods and how they can help.

Enjoy the rest of your Winter and I look forward to gathering more with our members in the coming year.

John

Orleans County Farm Bureau Wins State Awards



Orleans County Farm Bureau has received four County Awards of Excellence awards from New York Farm Bureau as part of its end of the year recognition program.

The County Excellence Awards are presented to county Farm Bureaus that have exhibited excellence in a variety of categories relating to effectiveness in agriculture promotion and outreach, leadership and county

Farm Bureau management, legislative advocacy, and mem-

bership. Orleans County Farm Bureau was successful in being recognized in all four categories this year. In addition, John Kast, Orleans County Farm Bureau president was recognized with the Distinguished President Award.

The Orleans County Farm Bureau sent a few delegates to New York Farm Bureau’s 65th State Annual Meeting on December 7 in Albany. These farmer members participated in the grassroots process of discussing and voting on public policy positions on the delegate floor. This important work is what lays the groundwork for your New York Farm Bureau in Albany and Washington, D.C. for the coming year.



# Scholarship Available for High School Seniors



The Orleans County Farm Bureau believes the future of agriculture lies in our young farmers and with such beliefs, we have established this scholarship to support those students who have expressed their desire to continue studying in the agricultural field.

We are awarding two scholarships to qualified graduating seniors in Orleans County.

- 1st place scholarship is \$1,500
- 2nd place scholarship is \$1000

**Eligibility requirements:**

- Student must be a Student member or the child of a Regular or Associate member of Orleans County Farm Bureau
- Continuing their education beyond high school into an agriculturally related field, two-year or four-year program
- If not attending college but will enter into the Agriculture industry, should have a completed budget for one year

Scholarship application forms are available from the Orleans County Farm Bureau office at 585-343-3489. Forms must be returned to the Farm Bureau office no later than April 30, 2022. The award decision will be based on scholastic achievements, extracurricular activities, an essay contest and interest in agricultural or agricultural-related fields.

**Please mail your completed application to:**

**Orleans County Farm Bureau  
420 E Main Street  
Batavia, NY 14020**

## Orleans County Farm Bureau Donates to Albion FFA Food Drive



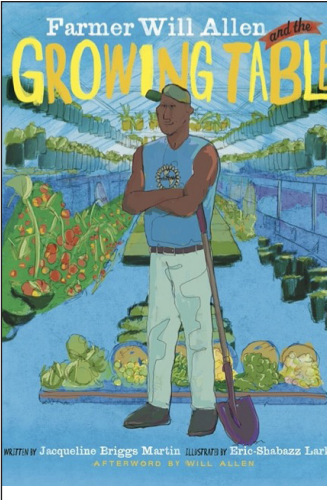
PHOTO ABOVE: ALBION FFA CHAPTER MEMBERS

The Albion FFA Food Drive is a tradition in the Albion community which was started by student members in the effort to get fresh produce into the homes of local residents in need.

It has grown within its ten years of existence from 3,000 pounds of food collected their first year, to the staggering 55,000 pounds collected this year.

Orleans County Farm Bureau is proud to be one of the many local donors to assist the Albion FFA Chapter in reaching their goal of helping residences within their community obtain fresh produce.

## 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 Lark, 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. Books are then donated to the school or classroom library. Last year 2,300 books were donated while 75,000 elementary students participated in an experiential learning activity.

# Orleans County 2021 Scholarship Winner: Sierra Kast



Sierra is a Freshman at Texas A&M where she is majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, set to graduate in the Spring of 2024. After graduation her plans are to further her education by attending Veterinary school at Texas A&M with future goals of getting a job working with animals in agriculture.

Sierra writes, "Currently I am working at the Schubot Center for Avian Health where I am in charge of the Macaw room and assist with other birds when needed. On occasion, I have the opportunity to get handling hours while helping undergraduate veterinary students and veterinarians with their projects. I am involved in an organization called Vets Without Borders. Through this organization I have volunteered various times at the Reptile Hospice and Sanctuary of Texas. Also, through this organization I am going on a two week trip to Costa Rica in May. While in Costa Rica I will volunteer at an animal rescue and rehab center for animals involved in trafficking. Along with being

a member of Vets Without Borders I am in University Honors and involved in a women's organization called Aggie Southern Darlings.

Growing up with a farming background has had a great impact on my life. It has shown me the importance of hard work and dedication. It has also helped influence my love and passion for animals. The Orleans Farm Bureau has given me the opportunity to meet various people in the agricultural field. I have had the pleasure of going to Albany and witnessing the political side of agriculture along with being able to meet some of our people there. Similarly, I have met various people in our community and see different sides of agriculture through different people.

I am grateful for everything I have been exposed to throughout my involvement in The Orleans Farm Bureau along with all the amazing people I have met. It is nice to know that I am a part of an organization that contains like minded people who only want the best for something that has been and will continue to be an important part of my life."

## NYFB Lobby Day Goes Virtual Again This Year

With the ongoing threat of Corona Virus, NYFB's Lobby Day will be virtual this year.

Lobby Day, usually scheduled as a two-day trip into Albany, is designed to help build connections with and communicate the needs of agriculture to our elected officials.

Virtual meetings this year will make for an interesting and unique opportunity, as some those members who are unable to take time away for an overnight to Albany, will be able to join in so your voice can be heard!

Meetings will be scheduled with elected representatives 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 Orleans County Farm Bureau, contact Amanda Krenning-Muoio at 585-504-8308.

**Contact Pam Zwolinski in your local County Farm Bureau office with membership questions you may have: (585) 343-3489**

### MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

**Earn Rewards by Referring New Members**

**MARCH MEMBERSHIP CASH INCENTIVE**

For each new membership you sign up during October you will receive a \$20 cash incentive. Valid for new members signed up 3/1/2022-3/31/2022

**HIGH FIVE AWARD**

Sign up 5 new memberships and NYFB will honor your dedication and hard work by awarding you with a special NYFB apparel item.

**March - June Incentive**

**County Farm Bureau** must bring in a minimum of 12 new members between March 1 and June 30 to qualify. Top Producing CFB will receive \$500.

**Individual Incentive** - Any individual who sells a new membership March 1-June 30 is eligible. The individual who sells the most new memberships gets a \$200 award

**Limited Time Offer**

**\$149 SPECIAL NEW MEMBER RATE**

New members can join for the rest of 2022 and all of 2023 for \$149. Offer expires June 30th, 2022.

\*Long Island new members are \$225

**NYFB.org  
1.800.342.4143**

