

# Oneida County Farm Bureau

May 2022



## President's Report



Hello everyone, it feels good to have this past winter over and spring upon us. With the days getting longer, I know most of you are out in the fields trying to get as much done as you can. With COVID-19 restrictions lifting, it seems like everyone is in even more of a hurry to get somewhere. I just want to remind you all to stay safe out there. I also want to give a shout out to our own Oneida County Sheriff and Farm Bureau member Rob Maciol, who addressed the media concerning slow moving vehicles and rural road safety at the start of spring planting

season. It's a great reminder for farmers and non-farmers alike to be aware of slow moving vehicles on the road this time of year.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to testify at this past January's Wage Board hearings held to determine if farmworker overtime threshold hours should be reduced from 60 hours down to 40. I couldn't have been more proud of our members and their families as they heeded the call from Farm Bureau, signed up to testify and waited hours online to be able to speak for three minutes against the proposed threshold reductions. It was a tremendous effort from our members and it was disappointing to have the Wage Board recommend reducing overtime hours down to 40 over the next 10 years. There is a bright spot with the 2022-23 New York State budget as it looks favorably on agriculture. It includes critical farm promotion, research, environmental and animal health programs funded in the final document. Included is a tax credit for agricultural operations to help defray the costs of the farm overtime threshold reduction. The final budget also includes increases to the farmworkers retention tax credit from \$600 to \$1,200 annually, and the investment tax credit for farms to 20 percent.

I just want to encourage everyone to continue to be engaged. It's important that we stand up for what is best for our farming community. Attend a Farm Bureau board meeting, join a committee or e-lobby for your specific concerns on the NYFB website. We will continue to face major challenges with production and transportation costs continuing to rise, and environmental regulations always looming. There will continue to be new obstacles to overcome that can impact our ability to farm. Together we can help to maintain a viable agricultural industry in New York. Stay safe out there everyone!

John Collins, President



*Oneida County Sheriff and Farm Bureau member, Rob Maciol, addresses the media recently concerning rural road safety at the startup of a busy spring planting season.*

## ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU OPEN HOUSE AND JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JUNE 20

BEGINS AT 6 P.M.

COLLINS FARM AND CREAMERY  
8744 THOMAS ROAD, ROME, NY

A celebration for *June is Dairy Month* is being planned and all Oneida County Farm Bureau members are invited to attend. An open house is planned at *Collins Farm and Creamery* owned and operated by the John & Sammi Collins family. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a short farm tour as well as an ice cream social. A brief Oneida County Farm Bureau board meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m.



**Come enjoy a summer evening  
with some good conversation  
and ice cream, too!**

## ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU CELEBRATES AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

Each year in March, a Celebration of Agriculture is brought into classrooms throughout New York State with Agricultural Literacy Week, designated as March 21-25 this year. Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, Agricultural Literacy Week helps children in kindergarten through third grade have an awareness of where their food comes from by introducing them to a pre-selected agriculture themed book that is read to classrooms.

Oneida County school children had the celebration brought to them this year with volunteers helping to introduce them to the importance of agriculture by reading this year's book titled *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*. Written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin, the story introduces Will Allen, who is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he's as tall as his truck, and he can hold a cabbage, or a basketball, in one hand. But what is most special about Farmer Will is that he can see what others can't see. When he looked at an abandoned city lot he saw a huge table, big enough to feed the whole world. No space, no problem. Poor soil, there's a solution. Need help, found it. Farmer

Will is a genius in solving problems with the story showcasing the unique diversity of agricultural operations especially applicable to New York's combination of rural, suburban and urban landscapes.

Agriculture is a unifying factor for communities all over. Whether you have 100 acres or a rooftop, there are opportunities for growing food and sharing the journey from soil to table with those around, as illustrated in *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*. This book will take students on an explorative journey as they learn about community gardens and inspire them to build communities through food, even if they only have a pot on their porch to cultivate.

Oneida County Farm Bureau was pleased to purchase the books that were read to students. The books were then distributed throughout classrooms and school libraries. In addition, copies were purchased to be distributed to the 21 public libraries in Oneida County so that all can experience and join in Will Allen's optimism and determination to bring good food to every table.



**Photo above:** This year's NYS Agricultural Literacy Week book, *Will Allen and the Growing Table*, presented to Lorraine Hefner (l), librarian at Didymas Thomas Library in Remsen, by Oneida County Farm Bureau members Megan Goldstein (c) and Benjamin Simons (r).



**Photo left:** John Wagner of New York Farm Bureau presents this year's Ag Literacy Book of the year, *Will Allen and the Growing Table*, on behalf of Oneida County Farm Bureau to Mary Kay Junglen, Library Director at the Sherrill-Kenwood Library.

**Photo right:** Oneida County Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Chair Karen K. Howard (l) presents Robyn Coufal, Director of the Vernon Public Library, with this year's Ag Literacy Book choice, *Will Allen and the Growing Table*.



**Photo below:** Oneida County Farm Bureau board member Maryellen Wiley (r) presents the 2022 Ag Literacy Book, *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* to the Waterville Public Library Executive Director, Jill Kervin.





## FARM FEST 2022

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. - RAIN or SHINE

DiNITTO FARMS, 6585 BENTON RD., MARCY, NY

Oneida County farmers invite you to join them for some good old fashioned fun and festivities the whole family will enjoy. Visit FREE educational displays, learn about agriculture and ENJOY!

- Pony Rides
- Games
- Hay Rides
- Food
- Farm Tours
- Petting Zoo
- Hay Maze
- Vendors

***Fee for pony rides and food is CASH ONLY (no ATM).***

***NO pets please.***

Co-sponsored by Oneida County Farm Bureau, Oneida County Dairy Promotion and Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County. A \$5.00 parking donation is appreciated. For more information call CCE Oneida County at 315-736-3394 or visit [www.cceoneida.com](http://www.cceoneida.com).



Congressman Antonio Delgado, recently appointed Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York by Governor Hochul, met with local farmers at the farm of Rob Maciol to discuss agricultural issues. The Congressman was visiting with farmers who are part of his newly-redrawn congressional district.

**Photo (l-r):** Ben Simons, Oneida County Farm Bureau member, newly-appointed Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado, and John Collins, President of Oneida County Farm Bureau.

### GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE - JOIN AN NYFB ISSUE COMMITTEE

New York Farm Bureau recently opened its Issue Committees to all NYFB members. Join an Issue Committee now to receive targeted agricultural industry-specific updates about the latest news and inside scoop on legislation, regulation and related events. This is your one-stop shop to gain valuable insights and information on the issues you care about most!

#### **NYFB Issue Committees:**

- Dairy Committee
- Labor Committee
- Specialty Crops and Organics Committee
- Farm Beverage Committee
- Cannabis Committee
- Equine Committee
- Livestock and Feed Grains Committee

Advisory Members of each committee are appointed by the NYFB Board of Directors annually. To sign up go to the [NYFB.org](http://NYFB.org) website. Under the Programs tab go to the Issues Committees tab. You will need to be logged in as a NYFB member.\*




*\*To do so, click on the member login tab and then enter your username and password. If you have forgotten either, click on the links for «forgot username» or «forgot password.» You can also call member support services for assistance at 518-436-8495.*



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



Oneida County Farm Bureau





From big to small.  
From farm to front yard.  
As a Farm Bureau® member,  
you're eligible to save.\*

**PLATINUM 1 SAVINGS FOR  
FARM BUREAU MEMBERS.**

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\*Must be a valid member of Farm Bureau for 30 days and have a valid email address to be eligible for John Deere benefits. John Deere's green and yellow scheme, the leaping deer symbol and John Deere are trademarks of Deere & Company.

**NYFB.ORG/MEMBER-BENEFITS**  
**1-800-342-4143**



## ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**VICE PRESIDENT:** Kathy Gregory-Salvo..... 315-796-2109  
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**FIELD ADVISOR:** John Wagner ..... 315-761-9770  
CNY County Support Office ..... 315-252-1367  
NYFB Office ..... 800-342-4143  
The board usually meets on the third Monday of the month at the  
CCE of Oneida in Oriskany.