

Cortland County Farm Bureau

September 2022



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Seems like each summer is flying by faster than the last one did and before you know it, we're into fall. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and that you're looking forward to a great harvest, falling leaves, pumpkins and the cooler weather.

Of course, the cooler weather also means its time for County Annual Meeting and turning our focus to potential policy items to forward onto the state level. I hope you'll take a few moments to fill out the policy development survey included in this newsletter. Spending a few moments to share your thoughts helps us focus on action items for Albany that can affect you and your neighbors.

Don't forget to make reservations for the County Annual Meeting being held at Homer Hops on Monday, October 17. More information is available on the back page of this newsletter. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on around the county. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Jeff Perry, President

CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeffrey Perry, President.....	607-220-6139
Zach Young, Vice President	607-345-8180
Shaun Sweeney, Secretary	607-838-8909
Sarah Head, Treasurer	607-345-9098
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Jessica Currie, YF&R.....	315-729-2861
Dan Palladino, District 5 Director	
Mark James, Field Advisor	585-738-0242
CNYFB Office.....	315-252-1367
NYFB Albany Office.....	1-800-342-4143

PRODUCERS WITH MEDICARE: OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS OCTOBER 15!

Every year Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Prescription Drug plans (PDP), and Medigap plans change their coverage. Changes can include premiums, copays, coinsurance, and/or even coverage. Medicare offers an Annual Medicare Enrollment so Medicare beneficiaries are able to review their plans and make changes if needed. Annual Enrollment occurs October 15 to December 7 every year. If a beneficiary enrolls in a plan during this time period, their new coverage will start January 1 the following year.

In late September, beneficiaries should receive an Annual Notice of Change and/or Evidence of Coverage from their plan. It's important to review these notices for any changes in the plan's costs, benefits, and/or rules for the upcoming year. If the plan's member is dissatisfied with any upcoming changes, the member has the ability to change during Medicare's Annual Enrollment period.

Even if a beneficiary is satisfied with their current Medicare coverage, this Medicare Annual Enrollment period gives them the opportunity to at least review and compare other Medicare plans for the upcoming year. There also could be a new plan to our service area that was not offered the previous calendar year. It is always worth the appointment to see what else is out there for the upcoming year.

If you miss Annual Medicare Enrollment and are dissatisfied with your Medicare Advantage Plan, an additional enrollment period for Medicare Advantage plan members runs from January 1st - March 31st. Medicare Advantage Plan members can dis-enroll from their current plan and/or switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan one time only within this three-month period or switch back to Original Medicare and a PDP.

The Cortland County Area Agency on Aging's Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program has New York State Certified Counselors who are available for individual, unbiased appointments during this time of year. For more information on Medicare's Annual Enrollment period or to make an appointment, please call (607) 753-5060.



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

Cortland County Farm Bureau

All are cordially invited to attend the
**CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL MEETING**

Monday, Oct. 17

at Homer Hops ♦ Route 90 ♦ Homer

Social at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Policy Development business meeting to follow

**One free dinner with paid dues,
\$25 per dinner (provided by Anderson Farms)**

PLEASE RSVP TO:

**Jeff at jap255@cornell.edu
or 607-220-6139**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Cortland County Farm Bureau 2022 Annual Policy Development Survey

Your opinion is important to help Cortland County Farm Bureau propose resolutions to the state.

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30th



RETURN TO: Jeff Perry
5531 Rte. 41
Homer, NY 13077
OR EMAIL TO: jap255@cornell.edu

COUNTY AND STATE ISSUES

1. Cortland County Farm Bureau (CCFB) **OPPOSES** the development of the Extended Producer Responsibility legislation requiring producers to pay for and manage recycling of their products.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree
2. CCFB **supports** the Enhanced Bottle Bill that expands bottles to be collected and jumps value to ten cents.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree
3. CCFB **supports** the current Worker's Compensation insurance policy that considers farm workers hired by a farm labor contractor as employees of the farm and covered by the farm owner.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree
4. CCFB **OPPOSES** legislation that permits values-based procurement preference to food products for local municipalities. This includes efforts to create "standards" that impact sustainability, racial equity, animal welfare, nutrition and workforce welfare that are not currently required in state/federal law.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree
5. CCFB **supports** state recognition of USDA urban area maps for eligibility requirements for state urban agriculture programs.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree
6. CCFB **supports** continued funding for Soil & Water Conservation District and Cooperative Extension of Cortland County.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree

Continued on Back



Cortland County Farm Bureau

2022 Annual Policy Development Survey Continued...

7. CCFB **supports** the establishment of standard road widths for state roads that are utilized by farm and equipment and vehicles to provide guidelines for reconstruction projects.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree

NATIONAL ISSUES

8. CCFB **supports** developing a national standard for the term “regenerative agriculture” to minimize confusion when used by both public agencies and private organizations.

☐ strongly disagree ☐ disagree ☐ no opinion ☐ agree ☐ strongly agree

9. What specific policy updates or changes are needed for the 2023 Farm Bill? This is our time to voice needs.
Possible areas for changes: (check any of interest)

☐ Dairy programs (DMC, Dairy-RP, LGM)
☐ Specialty crop programs
☐ Conservation programs (EQUIP, CSP, CRP, RCCP)
☐ Crop insurance and PLC/ARC programs
☐ USDA programming

13. Other Issues? Are there other agricultural issues facing producers and providers in the agriculture industry that Farm Bureau should be working on? Please give us a description.

RETURN TO:	Jeff Perry 5531 Rte. 41 Homer, NY 13077
OR EMAIL TO:	jap255@cornell.edu