

Cayuga County Farm Bureau

September 2022



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

All are cordially invited to attend the

CAYUGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 12

held at

**THE POINT AT SAND BEACH
AUBURN, NY**

Social Time starting at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$30 per person

Featured speaker will be a representative from

**CAYUGA COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

addressing economic opportunities for
agricultural producers

PLEASE RSVP BY OCT. 3 TO:

jwilliamson@nyfb.org or call 315-252-1367

FROM THE NYFB DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR



Pumpkins and policy development go together like peanut butter and jelly! It's that time of year for farmers and Farm Bureau. Keep watch of your email and mailbox for notification of your county's annual meeting in October. As we speak, most counties are talking about the following two things at their September meeting:

1. Nominating Committee – who is ready, willing, and able to contribute to county Farm Bureau activities. If a large handful of people contribute a little, then one to two people are not overburdened. We need doers as well as leaders. It takes a mix of both and can be a lot of fun to participate. Please let your county board members know if you are interested. We may come calling!
2. Policy Development topics – what issues are important at the national, state, and local levels that you should be weighing in on? Keep in mind that local issues will come up ONLY if local members bring them up. Be vocal so others are not deciding in your absence.

We hope to hear from you and see you at the annual meeting in October.

On the state level, we are preparing for a newly revamped “in-person”, two-day, State Annual Meeting in Buffalo on Dec. 6-7. The first day will be leading edge topics with top notch speakers on climate change, labor and business climate in NYS. The second day will include the business meeting and ALL the policy

development. Please look at your email or the NYFB website for further details. Come see and be heard!

On a less exciting note, there has been some union worker activity around the state as well as at the Mexican border. What we don't know is that this is just the tip of the iceberg. These union workers are trying to convince farm workers to sign ballots to vote a farm's workforce into unionization. It is smart and important to be informed about unionization efforts. It is also smart to educate your employees about the whys of unions. If you don't, union workers will, and it will not be to your benefit. On Sept. 12, NYFB hosted Attorney Josh Viau on a webinar about the dos and don'ts of discussing unions with your workforce. It was very informative with some stories to illustrate points. That webinar is available on the NYFB website - members only section*. If you have employees, you MUST watch and listen to what Josh says. Don't be fooled into thinking you're “under the radar” because you are so rural, small, or whatever excuse you are thinking of. A majority of card signings can happen on a small farm more easily than a larger farm. Go to: www.nyfb.org/resources/farm-labor and watch the webinar.

Have a great harvest and see you at your County Annual Meeting!

Kim Skellie

NYFB Region 3 District Director

*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.

YOUNG FARMERS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SUBMITTED BY: Tad Patterson

Over the last couple of months Cayuga County Young Farmers and Ranchers have been brainstorming on how to get more interaction between each other that can allow us to make new connections and new friendships in the industry. I was lucky enough to go to the northeast meeting of the Young Farmers Leadership Conference held in Pennsylvania this past spring. There I was able to learn about new ways of management, getting some insight of what is going on in other areas of agriculture, and also network with other people in agriculture. This was a very interesting meeting and plans are to be able to get more people from our county to attend at next year's scheduled event Feb. 4 & 5 at Wyndham Garden State College Hotel, Boalsburg, PA.

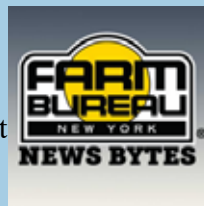
NEW YORK FARM BUREAU PODCAST

New York Farm Bureau recently announced its' new weekly podcast “News Bytes,” that includes the latest news and information regarding NYFB and agriculture.

One of the latest editions of New York Farm Bureau News Bytes Podcast is available now. NYFB takes you to the State Fair and talks to Eileen Jensen, Executive Director of the New York Animal Agriculture Coalition, about the conversations happening with fairgoers inside the Dairy Cow Birthing Center.

In the coming months, we will look at issues impacting farmers and long form interviews about food and farming will be available. We welcome any topic ideas or feedback. Please email us at communications@nyfb.org.

New York Farm Bureau News Bytes Podcast is available in your favorite podcast app, like iTunes, Spotify, or iHeartRadio. Make sure to subscribe and never miss an



CALLING ALL YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN CAYUGA COUNTY

SUBMITTED BY: Matt Pinckney

As we all know agriculture in Cayuga County is extremely important. Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) play a key role in continuing the success of agriculture in the county. As a county we are trying to get a YF&R Committee started. The age bracket to participate is 18-35. We expect that our newly-formed YF&R Committee will empower our young farmers and ranchers with necessary leadership skills to succeed along with socialization and network building with other like-minded individuals.

A few months back we held our first networking event at Prison City Brewery in Auburn for all local young farmers and ranchers. We had a great turnout with around 26 young farmers and agricultural professionals from Cayuga, Onondaga, Ontario, Wayne, and Seneca counties. This was a great opportunity for young individuals involved in agriculture to network and share experiences.

We are looking for a few more individuals to join the Cayuga County YF&R Committee to help with organizing events and activities and are currently in

the process of planning a couple networking events for late fall. If you're interested, or know of someone that would be, please pass our contact info onto them and encourage them to reach out. Matt Pinckney (315) 359-8231 or Tad Patterson (315) 255- 2161.



Photo above: Christina Hudson Kohler (r), Chair of the NYFB State YF&R Committee discusses the benefits of the Cayuga County YF&R Program to participants of the first Cayuga County YF&R networking event at Prison City Brewery in Auburn.

New York Farm Bureau Policy Development Discussion Forum 2023

To help jump start policy discussion below are some questions to think about. These issues are only suggestions and unique ideas generated from your county should be an important part of your consideration.

STATE TOPICS

- 1) The Extended Producer Responsibility legislation and an enhanced Bottle Bill will be a major focus of the 2023 Legislative Session. Right now, New York Farm Bureau opposes both. If you had to pick one bill or the other, which one would you pick? Should NYFB continue to oppose both bills even though one may be approved in 2023?
- 2) Who should be responsible for paying for Worker's Compensation insurance for workers secured through a farm labor contractor? The labor contractor or the farm owner?
- 3) Should roads that are utilized by farm equipment and farm vehicles be required to have a certain width that accommodates these vehicles and equipment if reconstructed and if this is not possible, should the plan be required to provide an appropriate alternate route?
- 4) Should the state and/or local municipalities be permitted to give values-based procurement preference and priority to food products that meet certain standards regarding locally produced, labor, nutrition, animal welfare, racial equity, and environmental sustainability? If so, what should the specific criteria

be for each standard?

- 5) Should the state recognize USDA's urban area maps for eligibility requirements for state urban agricultural programs?
- 6) Should the state budget include funding for promotion of local fairs? And should funding be administered by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets?
- 7) Is there a state law or regulation that you believe should be changed?

NATIONAL POLICY TOPICS

1. "Regenerative agriculture" is being used without a standard nationally recognized definition. Should there be a standardized definition for regenerative agriculture and how should it be defined?
2. What policy updates and changes are needed for discussion for the 2023 Farm Bill?
 - Are the dairy programs (DMC, Dairy-RP, LGM) meeting the needs of dairy farmers?
 - Are the specialty crop programs meeting the needs of specialty crop producers?
 - Are conservation programs (EQIP, CSP, CRP, RCCP) meeting the needs of farmers?
 - Do crop insurance programs and PLC/ ARC programs provide the necessary protections for agricultural commodities?
 - Do USDA programs meet the needs of beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers?
3. Is there a federal regulation or law that is impacting your operation that you think should be changed?

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



Cayuga County Farm Bureau



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Eligibility for insurance is subject to the New York State Insurance Fund's underwriting requirements. *Percentage is based on dividends paid 2016 through 2020. Dividends are not guaranteed. Continued membership in NYFB is required to participate in Safety Group 486. NYFB and its subsidiaries have no authority to bind coverage for any member.

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Cayuga County Farm Bureau board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Natural Resource Center on County House Road in Auburn, NY.