

Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Winter 2023



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message

Jefferson County Farm Bureau members,

I want to thank Devon Shelmidine for his time as president and for the leadership he provided. I know I have some pretty big shoes to fill and I'm honored to have been chosen as your Jefferson County Farm Bureau President.



I'd also like to take a moment and welcome our new board members, Nichole Hirt, Tedra Bean and Jay Matteson. Tedra will also be serving as the new county Pro-Ed committee chair in addition to board duties. Both Tedra and Nichole are agriculture educators in the Jefferson County school system. Having served farmers and agribusiness of central and northern New York for the past 31 years, Jay currently works as the Agricultural Coordinator for Jefferson County Economic Development. We're privileged to have these new board members join us and look forward to the year ahead. If you see them out and about, say hello and let them know you appreciate all the work they do in furtherance of Jefferson County agriculture.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

-Kyle Hafemann, President

NYFB LOBBY DAY & TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception are scheduled for February 27-28, 2023 in Albany. This is a great opportunity for any Jefferson County Farm Bureau member to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Jefferson County agriculture.

The Taste NY Reception (February 27) will showcase products from around New York State and Jefferson County will have a booth for displaying our great Jefferson County agricultural product!

Lobby Day (February 28) will be an opportunity for members to meet with and give a rural production perspective to elected legislators. Jefferson County Farm Bureau will also meet with urban "Adopted Legislators." For some, it may be the first contact with an agricultural producer.

Anyone interested in participating in Lobby Day or donating a product for the Taste of NY Reception should contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770 or email jwagner@nyfb.org.



The New York Farm Bureau County Support Office proudly serving Jefferson County Farm Bureau has moved. There are currently TWO locations to serve you!

- Jill Williamson
NYFB County Support Office
P.O. Box 367
Marietta, NY 13110
Phone: 518-431-5670
Email: jwilliamson@nyfb.org

- Felicia Dougherty
NYFB County Support Office
P.O. Box 256
Granville, NY 12832
Phone: 518-431-5650
Email: eny@nyfb.org



JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU RECOGNIZED AT STATE ANNUAL MEETING

Jefferson County Farm Bureau received four County Awards of Excellence from New York Farm Bureau as part of its end of the year recognition program. Awards were presented during the organization's 66th State Annual Meeting held December 7 in Buffalo, NY.

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 membership.

In addition, New York Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee recognized Devon Shelmidine as one of the award winners in their two competitive events. Devon was presented with the Achievement Award, which recognizes young farmers for their farming pursuits, participation and leadership within agriculture and their own community. Being recognized as the State Achievement Award winner, Devon was able to represent New York Farm Bureau at the American Farm Bureau National Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"The Jefferson County Farm Bureau's awards recognize the positive work we do on behalf of our members. We are addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for our members and the greater agricultural community," said Kyle Hafeman, County Farm Bureau President. He continued, "I also couldn't be more proud of Devon, winning the NYFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award. He is the embodiment of a hard-working farmer and his dedication to the Jefferson County Farm Bureau community has benefited all of us. Congratulations, Devon."



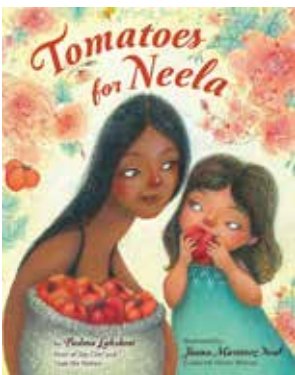
Photo left: Doug Shelmidine, addresses the delegate body at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting held December 7 in Buffalo.

Top right photo: Devon Shelmidine with his parents Doug and Sue after being recognized as this years State Achievement Award Winner

Bottom right photo: Devon Shelmidine, at the AFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers event held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK MARCH 20-24, 2023



Agricultural Literacy Week is celebrated every year in March with volunteers throughout the state, including Jefferson County, going into elementary schools and reading an agricultural themed book to young children. Following the reading, volunteers conduct an activity with

students and share their experiences in agriculture. The book is then donated to the school or classroom library for students to enjoy and reference throughout the school year.

This year's featured book *Tomatoes for Neela* written

by Padma Lakshmi and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal introduces Neela, a young girl who loves cooking with her amma and writing down the recipes in her notebook. It makes her feel closer to her paati who lives far away in India. On Saturdays, Neela and Amma go to the green market and today they are buying tomatoes to make Paati's famous sauce. But first, Neela needs to learn about all the different kinds of tomatoes they can pick from. And as Neela and Amma cook together, they find a way for Paati to share in both the love and the flavors of the day.

For more information about Ag Literacy Week in Jefferson County, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County at 315-788-8450.

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SET FOR 2023

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2023 legislative priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at the 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.

- Support legislation and budget appropriations that would allow New York to replenish the Unemployment Insurance (UI) trust fund without overburdening businesses with high UI tax bills, specifically the interest assessment, as businesses recover from the pandemic.
- 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.
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.
- Solar development and the aggregate value of solar lease payments should be utilized as potential development value when property is appraised for PDR values or similar farmland preservation programs.
- Support the development of solar energy that balances private property rights and the 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.
- Oppose any alteration to Soil and Water Conservation District laws that would change the make-up, mission and function of the State and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts without the statutorily required inclusion and input from County Boards of Supervisors, or county legislatures, New York Farm Bureau, the New York State Grange, NYS Department of Ag & Markets, and the four-way partnership (NRCS, NYACD, the State Committee, and the Employees Association) of the Soil and Water District system.
- Continue funding support the Nourish-NY program to help farmers provide local, healthy food to underserved and food-insecure communities in the state.
- Oppose legislation increasing the state's minimum wage, until there is a national wage standard to allow New York's businesses to compete on a national basis.
- Oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants and support strong DEC's regulatory authority over pesticide registration in accordance with sound science.
- Support legislation allowing direct to consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and distillates.
- Oppose Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that doesn't require consumer responsibility for packaging they receive and doesn't unduly burden New York's food and wine manufacturing businesses.
- Incentivize more locally produced food purchases by public entities without values-based purchasing requirements.
- Target federal and state infrastructure funding for rural roads, bridges and broadband.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship is awarded to a member or family member of the Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, or St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau, with preference given to Jefferson

County who is enrolled in SUNY Jefferson Community College. The scholarship is awarded to any year student at SUNY JCC, with preference given to a second year student, who has financial need and has shown citizenship and leadership through community involvement and/or extracurricular school activities. In order to maintain the award throughout the academic year, the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA. All final applicants must be verified through the Farm Bureau. **For more information, go to:** <https://sunnyjefferson.academicworks.com/opportunities/3171>. You must be signed into your SUNY JCC student account to apply.

FFA BLUE JACKET SCHOLARSHIP

The iconic FFA Blue jacket is a beacon of community and pride. As a part of the FFA official dress, it is important that students gain the full experience and benefit of being an FFA member.



Jefferson County Farm Bureau is pleased to be able to offer scholarships to provide FFA Blue Jackets to deserving members throughout the county. Applications will be available online this year. Students can get the link from their agriculture teacher. For further information, email Tedra Bean at tbean@bhpanthers.org.



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

This issue of Jefferson County Farm Bureau News is sponsored by:



Loans and Leases
Tax Services
Payroll Services
Business Consulting
Record-keeping
Country Home Loans
Crop Insurance
FarmStart for New Businesses
Real Estate and Equipment Appraisals

**Our mission is to
grow your success.**

FARMCREDITEAST.COM
25417 NY ROUTE 12
WATERTOWN, NY 13601
800.626.3276



JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Kyle Hafemann.....	315-778-6457
VICE PRESIDENT: Michael Kiechle.....	315-778-8110
2nd Vice PRESIDENT: Fred Matthews ..	315-658-2351
Past President: Devon Shelmidine....	315-486-8959
Jay Canzonier	315-523-0760
Adam Miner.....	315-775-3774
Tim Eastman.....	315-486-1120
Alyssa Kealy.....	315-523-4223
Jay Matteson.....	315-783-2251
Nichole Hirt	315-559-9361
Tedra Bean (Pro-Ed Chair).....	315-783-7067
Charles Jacob Ax (YF&R)	315-684-6648
FIELD ADVISOR: John Wagner.....	315-761-9770
NYFB COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES:	
Jill Williamson.....	518-431-5670
Felicia Dougherty	518-431-5650

Jefferson County Farm Bureau meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jefferson County Community College in Watertown.