



Steuben County
Farm Bureau News

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Summer 2017

Annual Steuben County Farm Bureau Picnic

This year's Picnic will be Sunday, July 30 at 1 p.m. at Squires Farms, 9986 State Route 53 Just south of the village of Prattsburgh. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass, everything else will be provided. This is a great opportunity to get together with other farmers and members of the farming community within our county. The Squires Family will also be giving tours of their onion operation that afternoon. A brief meeting will follow the picnic but won't take long. Please let us know if you're going to attend by calling Ray Emery at 315-730-7345, or emailing at raysellskeuka@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Resolutions

Anytime is a good time to bring your input and ideas for resolutions to the resolutions committee to be presented at our annual meeting in October. Tell us what is important to you as a farmer or landowner in Steuben County. Attendees at the meeting will vote on these resolutions in October at the annual meeting and then they will be taken by delegates to New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in December.



EPA and Army Corps Move to Withdraw Flawed WOTUS Rule

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has signed paperwork to review and revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS).

Farm Bureau has been outspoken with its concerns on this rule, launching the “ditch the rule” campaign in 2014 to help educate farmers, landowners, and the public on how broad the rule had been written.

If the withdrawal is made final after a 30 day comment period, EPA and the Army Corps would continue to interpret the Clean Water Act (CWA) as they have since WOTUS was stayed by the 6th circuit Court of Appeals in October 2015. However, the situation could become muddled if environmental groups challenge the withdrawal in court.

This is a great step in providing our farmers with clarity and NYFB will be sure to keep you informed as this process continues.

11th Hour Reprieve For Local Farmers? Or Postponing The Inevitable?

Area farmers, 125 employees, and local businesses let out a big sigh of relief as Upstate Niagara Cooperative made a last-minute deal with Kraft/Heinz to buy the plant in Cambell, New York. The plant will stay open and operate preserving 125 jobs with the plan to add 25 more. While this is great news for the employees and the economy surrounding them and the community, it still leaves a lot of uncertainty with the dairy farmers who currently ship their milk there. Approximately two million pounds of milk per day is shipped from local farms to the Cambell plant. The question remains as to whether Upstate Niagara Cooperative will continue the relationship that the plant currently has with the area dairies or they will bring in milk from other areas from members of the cooperative. Time will tell.

MEMBERSHIP

Your county Farm Bureau is only as strong as its active members. If you know somebody in agriculture is not a member, encourage them to join. Your county Farm Bureau works hard on the county, state, and national level as a voice for farmers and landowners. Starting in July new members can sign up and receive membership in good standing through October 2017. call or email any of the board members listed in this newsletter to sign up. It is quick and it's easy!

Great job to everyone who signed up new members this year. We reached goal!



President's Message

This year, our country welcomed in a new president and with him came a new bunch of appointed officials in places like the USDA, the EPA, and the Treasury Department. I believe many of these new people and policies could be beneficial to ag in our country. Administrations, presidents, politicians, and policies will come and go. No matter how great or terrible, they can't make the sunshine, the rain fall or the crops grow. I urge everyone to never forget who it is that does make those things happen. It is important to be politically active and voice our concerns, as we do at Farm Bureau. We pay a lot of attention to our state and federal government. Recently, some politicians have said they truly believe farmers have become an accomplice in the criminal exploitation of people by feeding them unhealthy food. They are foolish people and should not be comprised with on agricultural issues. They seek to our ruin and their own glory as some type of crusader. Be aware of these groups and people, as they usually appear to be sincere and considerate, as do most tyrants when they are trying to sway the masses before they slay the masses.

Shane Slayton

Social Media

Be sure to like us on Facebook as Steuben County Farm Bureau. Follow us on Instagram as SteubenCountyFB. We would like to encourage all of our members to share with us their pictures from their farm and their land as well as their experiences.