

# Ulster County Farm Bureau News August 2017



*To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture*

## President's Message:

When I first joined Farm Bureau I used to wonder where policies came from and how Farm Bureau decided where to expend energy and resources to benefit agriculture in New York. Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture in Albany. Whether it is lobbying for capping growth on agricultural assessment or lobbying against a \$15.00 per hour minimum wage. Where did these policies come from?

The reality is that it all begins with you, the individual members at the county level when you bring your ideas, your suggestions and your concerns to the county. The county in turn makes it into a formal, written resolution which is voted on. If the resolution passes it is then presented to and voted on at the State Annual Meeting in December. At that meeting, Farm Bureau delegates from across the state who represent varied agricultural interests gather to determine where money is to be spent and where lobby efforts should be directed.

At last year's annual meeting Ulster County Farm Bureau introduced resolutions pertaining to the wine industry, keeping the Hudson Valley research lab open, regarding flooding and keeping waterways open and greater inclusivity of all farmers which all passed. We invite anyone with a suggestion or a question about policies and legislation that impact agriculture in New York to join us at the policy picnic to be held on **Thursday, Aug. 17** at 7 p.m. at Twin Star Orchards at 155 N Ohioville Rd, New Paltz. If you can't make the picnic but have something that concerns you please contact me and I will be happy to bring it up on your behalf.

Just a reminder the Ulster County Farm Bureau Annual meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Oct. 30**. Time and place still to be determined.

*Just for fun, check out PetersonFarmBros.com. They are three brothers from Kansas who have made music videos about farm life!*

*Ray Cullen, UCFB president  
(845)246-9427*



*Tomato photos taken at farms throughout Ulster County by Field Advisor Renee Schoonmaker.*

**Ulster County Farm Bureau  
Policy Development Picnic  
Thursday, August 17, 2017  
7 p.m.**

**Twin Star Orchard  
155 N Ohioville Rd, New Paltz, NY**

*Light food & refreshments  
will be provided*

Ulster County Farm Bureau Board of Directors cordially invites you to their policy development picnic.

RSVP before Aug. 14 to Renee at  
[rschoonmaker@nyfb.org](mailto:rschoonmaker@nyfb.org) or call  
518-461-8659.

## First Three Steps Out of Seven In Becoming A Farm Bureau Policy

- 1. You have an idea about how to improve agriculture.**
  - Tell your county President or board member.
  - Talk with fellow members at a county meeting.
  - Submit to county Policy Development Committee
- 2. Your county considers your idea.**
  - County Policy Development Committee considers idea and makes a recommendation.
  - Provide background information to the committee to help them make an informed recommendation.
- 3. Attend your County Annual Meeting to support your idea.**
  - County approves your policy resolution at county annual meeting in the fall.
  - Local resolutions become county Farm Bureau policy and state and national recommendations are submitted to the NYFB Resolutions Committee.

## New York Farm Bureau Statement On Passage of Inherent Risk Reform for Agritourism Business

“New York Farm Bureau is extremely pleased that the New York State Legislature passed legislation (S.1152A/A.559A) that will provide inherent risk reform for agritourism businesses. This bill has been a top priority for our organization, as it should begin to offer relief to the excessive costs of liability insurance for diverse agricultural operations throughout the state.

This legislation establishes limited liability protections for the inherent risks of inviting the public onto farm business property. Agricultural tourism includes farms offering u-pick Christmas trees, apples and berries, along with hiking, farm and winery tours and equine therapy. New York’s litigious environment has diminished

the number of insurance carriers willing to cover equine establishments and agricultural tourism operations, while dramatically increasing the cost for liability coverage. This legislation now brings New York’s inherent risk law in line with nearly every other state in the country.

It is important to note that the legislation will not provide New York farms with blanket immunity from responsibility. Instead, it will offer owners some protection from lawsuits by an individual who is taking no responsibility for his or her own actions while visiting a farm or equine facility.” said David Fisher, New York Farm Bureau President.

**Farm Bureau Members can read the statement in its entirety on New York Farm Bureau website at [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org), and remember to E-Lobby and urge the Governor to sign the bill**

New York Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 5330  
Albany, NY 12205



Ulster County  
Farm Bureau News

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