

## Young Farmer & Rancher Event at Saratoga Harness Track

By Allison Akins, YFR Chair



Washington, Saratoga and Rensselaer County Young Farmers attended another event showcasing the diversity of Agriculture in the tri-county areas. In August, the young farmers visited the Saratoga Harness Track in Saratoga, NY. Where they were given a private tour of the horse paddocks to learn about the uniqueness of the Harness Racing industry from the owners and trainers themselves! They were able to see a veteran horse up close, learning about the tacks and harnesses that are used during the races. Many of the young farmers were amazed at the work that goes into getting a horse ready for a race that lasts only a few minutes long. The trainers did a wonderful job at explaining the differences between the Harness Track and the Thoroughbred Track. The young farmers even got a chance to sit on a jog cart just like the Jockeys. Afterwards they enjoyed a buffet dinner while watching the races at sunset. Thank you to the YF&R Chairs working hard to put on these events. Everyone is looking forward to our next event in October, a family day of pumpkin picking and fall activities at Liberty Ridge Farm in Schaghticoke, NY in Rensselaer County.

### President's Message Cont'd:

Speaking of the County Annual Meeting, I encourage you all to attend. The resolutions included in this newsletter are some of the topics currently being discussed. Please read these and bring your input to the meeting. We are here to represent our members and need your input.

Lastly, please feel free to reach out to the board members with any comments, questions or concerns you might have. We want to maintain an active dialog with our members and your feedback is important in letting us know where we should be headed. Thank you! *Tricia Lockwood*

### Washington County Fair

Washington County Farm Bureau had a new fair display at the Washington County Fair. They also raffled off a Washington County Farm Bureau t-shirt each day. Here are the lucky winners:



Wade Pirlot, Salem

Natalie Keegan, Gansvoort

Caitlin Morrison, Fort Edward

Sara Douglas, Greenwich

Chase Nix, Warrensburg

Jerry Macica, Schaghticoke

Fred and Suszyne Burch, Fort Ann

Marlie David, Warrensburg

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## 2018 Proposed Resolutions

*Below is a list of some of the resolutions that will be discussed at the annual meeting. Resolutions will also be accepted from the floor the night of the meeting. If you have a proposed resolution that you would like to present from the floor at the County Annual Meeting, please have it written beforehand. This will ensure the meeting to run more smoothly.*

### State

#### Agricultural Issues/Agricultural Assessments

Should farm operations of less than seven acres used in agricultural production be able to generate less than the current \$50,000 in gross annual sales income to be eligible for agricultural assessment?

Washington County Farm Bureau Board had a lengthy discussion on this subject and requests input from their members. Their discussion involved the following arguments: In favor- smaller operations could be eligible sooner and could encourage more people to get into agriculture and preserve farmland even if the parcel is small. The \$50,000 threshold seems very high and perhaps a compromise should be reached. Opposed- The agricultural assessment should be for people who are farming to generate real income whether full or part time. If too many people receive the assessment, perhaps all of farming could be in jeopardy of losing the assessment especially if high value properties are suddenly eligible for agricultural assessment which would result in lost tax revenue for New York State. Keeping the current threshold may cause people to seek out farms that are larger than 7 acres because then they would have the lower \$10,000 threshold to reach and this could help keep more farms and farmland together instead of divided.

#### Agricultural Issues/ Animal Care/ Animal Cruelty Issues

We believe shelter should be defined in the animal cruelty statute as "shelter means adequate protection from the elements and weather conditions suitable for the age, species, and physical condition of the animal to maintain the animal in a state of good health. Shelter for livestock includes structures or natural features such as trees or topography."

#### Commodity Issues/ Brewery and Distillery Issues

We support a reporting requirement for New York ingredients for farm brewery licenses.

#### Economic Issues/ Private Property Rights

We believe unmanned drones operating under 400 feet should be treated and prosecuted as trespassing and invasion of privacy.

#### Economic Issues/Taxes/ Real Property Taxes

We support extending RP-483, the exemption for agricultural buildings

#### Environmental Issues/ Wildlife Management/ Hunting Issues

We support prohibiting the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for hunting of wildlife.

#### General Issues/ Education/ Post-Secondary Agricultural Education

We support individuals being granted only one CTE certification.

### Ag Youth Scholarship

*Application submission deadline is Nov. 16.*

New York Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Committee is encouraging high school seniors who have been involved with agriculture and plan on continuing studies in this field to apply. County winners are recognized at the discretion of their county Farm Bureau. For more info call 1-800-342-4143.

### Facebook Page

If you haven't been to our page, please check it out at [www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountyNYFarmBureau](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountyNYFarmBureau).

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Trivia Night Challenge

Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The 1925 Barn, Hudson Falls

Appetizers start at 6 p.m.

Dinner at 6:45, Trivia starts at 7:30

Catered by DJ Herrington

RSVP your team of up to 8 people to:

Tricia Lockwood at 518-275-6054

or email:

[patricia.lockwood@farmcrediteast.com](mailto:patricia.lockwood@farmcrediteast.com)

\$25/person by October 28<sup>th</sup>

Stay tuned to our Facebook page  
for more details

*Proceeds to benefit local FFA chapters*

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Albany, NY 12205



Washington County  
Farm Bureau News

# Washington County Farm Bureau News September 2017



County Annual Meeting  
Different night

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

**Social hour at 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m.**  
**The 1925 Barn,89 County Road 41**  
**Hudson Falls**

**Cost: \$15, payable at the door**

Keynote Speaker  
**Renee St. Jacques**

**RSVP to the New York Farm Bureau**  
**Eastern Office:**

**1-866-995-7300 or email: [eny@nyfb.org](mailto:eny@nyfb.org).**

***Presentation: Bud Grant Award***

### President’s Message

Well, summer has come and gone again already and many of you are now getting ready for fall harvests. Our weather conditions have made it a challenging year for some, hopefully the fall will be productive for everyone.

Farm Bureau is getting ready to kick off another year with membership renewals due in October. Watch



your mailbox for your renewal paperwork. Remember to renew your membership prior to the end of October to save yourself \$10. Continuing your membership not only provides you access to several benefits, but more importantly keeps a strong base at the local level, directly impacting our ability when it comes time to develop policy and lobby with local representatives. To that end, Washington County Farm Bureau is looking to increase our membership base and we are looking for your help in the process. Think about your neighbors and friends...Do they support local agriculture? Encourage them to become Farm Bureau members. If you know someone that should be a member, but isn't share with them our website below or better yet, tell one of the board members and we'll contact them!

To help aid in the membership and renewal process, New York Farm Bureau website has been improved. It is much more user friendly and will soon have an easy to use portal where you can renew your membership online. Visit the new website at [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org).

On another note, we have two vacancies to fill on the board this year. If you are interested in running, please reach out to any existing board member and let them know. Election of new board members will take place at our County Annual Meeting held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. We are always looking for a fresh perspective and I would encourage those of you with new ideas to think about joining our board.

*Cont'd inside::*



**Salem Courthouse  
Lunch, Learn & Play  
Mural**

Painted by program's  
participants under local  
artist's direction.

*Sponsored by Washington  
County Farm Bureau*

## FARM INSURANCE

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**[jpirozzolo@aogf.com](mailto:jpirozzolo@aogf.com)**  
**[www.aogf.com](http://www.aogf.com)**



### Washington County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

*Now need to dial 518 first.*

Patricia Lockwood, President.....	275-6054
Mary Menard, VP & Secretary .....	222-5600
Philip Weaver, Treasurer.....	642-3618
<b>Directors:</b>	
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