

A Note from the Desk of Congressman John Katko

In Congress, I remain steadfast in my commitment to delivering results for Wayne County farmers and their families. I am committed to standing up for Wayne County's vibrant agriculture economy by advocating for tax reform and fair trade practices, and by continuing to elevate the discussion surrounding the implementation of Plan 2014 on the federal level.

I recognize that we need meaningful tax reform. Our current tax structure is burdensome and onerous for our farmers, as well as business owners and property owners. In order to stimulate the economy and create jobs, especially in the agriculture industry, we need to provide our farmers with a level playing field. I have and will continue to advocate for the preservation of the state and local property tax deduction in any tax reform proposal that is put forward.

In addition to tax reform, I have recently been focused on the need to protect some of our region's most vital industries from unfair trade practices, including our vast dairy farming industry. While trade can be of great benefit to our nation, currently, industries critical to this region's economic future— including our dairy industry— are falling victim to the unfair actions of other countries. Our local farmers can certainly hold their own while when the playing field is level, and trade terms are fair. But when other countries put the full power of the state behind their producers by creating market distortions and providing unfair subsidies, the growth and survival of our local producers is at risk. Specifically, Canada's protectionist dairy policies incentivize Canadian producers to buy ultra-filtered milk from Canadian farmers, rather than U.S. farmers. These recent policy changes have shifted global milk markets and our local dairy farmers and milk processors are feeling the effects right here at home. That's why I've urged the Administration to take action by prioritizing this issue in upcoming NAFTA discussions.

Next, I remain committed to addressing the devastating impact of Plan 2014 on Wayne County farmers, property owners and families. I was pleased to welcome Wayne County Board of Supervisors Chairman LeRoy and Sodus Point Mayor Tertinel to Washington to participate in this discussion and will continue to fight to ensure shoreline residents, property owners, businesses and farmers are able to receive the relief they desperately need.

Finally, this summer, Congress is beginning its discussions on the farm bill, I am eager to attend these meetings and will voice priorities and concerns of Wayne County farmers.

Thank you for allowing me to outline some of my priorities and work in Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress, NY-24

Thank You

A sincere thank you to **Assemblyman Bob Oaks and his staff** for hosting another year of the Department of Transportation courtesy truck inspections for farms and agricultural plated trucks. Over 37 Wayne County Farm Bureau member trucks were inspected during three days of back to back appointments. We look forward to 2018.

President's Note continued... Collaboration between county organizations has also been an area of substantial growth over the last decade. Although meeting coordination and cooperation on the overall direction of events can sometime be difficult, I feel these ventures go a long way towards outreach and the overall public perception of Farm Bureau. Most of these events are also a pretty good time which helps.

In no way am I implying that I was solely responsible for these gains, but I was part of them and I am proud of those accomplishments. Towards that end, I do not intend to be the President of Wayne County Farm Bureau another term. The 2017 County Annual Meeting will be my last day as President.

My role on the farm is constantly evolving, making it harder and harder to get away consistently. Similarly, the demands of my family (son 4.5 and daughter 8) continue to grow exponentially as the children age. Despite a fulltime job as a Physicians Assistant in women's health, my wife Emily has been picking up the slack at home during every board meeting, lobbying trip and State Annual Meeting. I am certainly a lucky man to have her. I know that we all have similar situations, but I can no longer give this position the time and energy it deserves. It really should be a two-three year position. It is my hope that someone steps up and gives this position everything it deserves, just as I have.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of such a great organization for the past decade and I am so glad that Adam Craft and "the Colonel" called me into service. My past employment in the State Senate shed light on the power that Farm Bureau has over our legislators.

Now I know why, because we represent farmers' livelihoods, not just some farmers, not just big farmers, but all farmers. Moreover, we do not simply represent every farmer, we fight for their right to continue to farm.

2018 Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship



Open to any 2018 Wayne County graduating high school seniors who have been involved with agriculture and plan on continuing studies in this field with a student Farm Bureau membership or whose family is a Farm Bureau member are encouraged to apply. District winners will receive \$100 plus a gift and will go on to compete for state-wide scholarships offered in \$1,500, \$1,200 and \$1,000 denominations. **Applications and information are available at NYFB.org or by calling 1-800-342-4143. Completed applications must be submitted by Nov. 16, 2017.**

**Pay your Farm Bureau Dues by
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Wayne County Farm Bureau News



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

Fall 2017



We Want You!...Community service continues to play a huge roll in the development of everyone in the community. In order to encourage improvements in our local community, there comes a time, when it is your time.

Wayne County Farm Bureau is looking to fill several leadership roles on the Board of Directors. New times in agriculture call for new outlooks and new leadership is needed to craft that vision for Wayne County agriculture. We are specifically looking for line officers which include: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary; Young Farmer and Rancher Chair and Promotion and Education Chair. While we have interested parties in some of these roles, it never hurts to have an over abundance of enthusiasm for community, especially in our vibrant agriculture community.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact David Coene at 585-265-4206.

A Note from Wayne County Farm Bureau President Zack DeBadts



As most of you may already be aware, I have been an active county Farm Bureau board member for the past 10 years. I started out as the County Young Farmer and Rancher Chair, transitioned to a regular board member, followed by Vice-President and ultimately, I became County President. After a healthy amount of “gentle persuasion” from Skip Jensen and John Sorbello, I even agreed to compete in the statewide Achievement Award competition. Much to my surprise, I won, and got a nice trip to San Antonio and a tractor (sustainably discounted) for my efforts.

I have genuinely enjoyed my involvement with Farm Bureau; I am a drinker of the “cool-aid” so to speak. I have missed very few meetings and fulfilled all my spoken commitments along the way. I believe in what New York Farm Bureau stands for. Furthermore, I have always felt that Farm Bureau (both county and state) appreciated my sacrifice and commitment. There is seldom a statewide meeting where our efforts aren’t heralded and our commitments thanked, usually our family sacrifices were also acknowledged...that’s something I can get behind.

I am proud of all that Wayne County Farm Bureau has accomplished over the past 10 years. When I first got involved, we had an extremely active board, but no money. We have certainly come a long way thanks to the auction!

I am also extremely proud of the way the four to five annual meetings at Dockers and Young Sommer Winery have gone, they have been marquee events. The past few meetings have had high attendance and glowing reviews.

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You are cordially invited to attend an evening celebration of agriculture

Wayne County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 28

Young Sommer Winery

4287 Jersey Road, Williamson

Guest Speaker: Sandra Prokop

New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Education

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

\$20 per person

RSVP by Friday Oct. 20

315-252-1367 or jrossi@nyfb.org