

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



Broome County  
Farm Bureau News

A quick note on policy development...

We are entering into that time of year again when our members consider, develop, and vote on our positions on issues affecting the agricultural industry. It is your opportunity as a member to be heard with your concerns and ideas. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau relies on our members to guide our legislative work throughout the year. If you have concerns, issues, or things you would like changed, added, or just brought to our attention, please contact one of your board members or me, and we can help you draft a resolution to address the issue. Or, you can just bring your issue to the annual meeting. It will then be voted on at the county annual meeting, and could ultimately end up at the State and American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and become policy. This is the most important aspect of your membership and we want your input. Please consider attending the county annual meeting and bring your ideas and concerns.

Lindsay Wickham  
NYFB Field Staff

Broome County Farm Bureau Board of Directors	
President, David Johnson .....	725-5176
Vice President, Andrea Eichhorn .....	862-3985
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Eric Winsor, YF Chair .....	206-0378
State Director, Paul Fouts .....	607-423-6045
NYFB Field Staff, Lindsay Wickham.....	535-3072
Broome County Farm Bureau Office .....	722-4586
NYFB.....	800-342-4143

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# Broome County Farm Bureau News

## October 2017



I believe Farm Bureau's major purpose is to inform and educate governmental policy makers on how their actions, or in-actions, affect agriculture and rural life. The old adage "those who show up, make the rules" doesn't always apply to New York State. The urban centers of NYS are so great that only a portion of their representatives need to attend to dominate government even if all the rural representatives show up. This is why it is so important for Farm Bureau members to go to Albany and Washington D.C. and lobby for our cause. I want to thank many on our county Farm Bureau Board of Directors for making time to go on these visits.

In the past, I've touched on Agriculture in the Classroom. This is a pilot program funded by Senator Akshar and administered by Broome County Cornell Cooperative Extension. Last year, five schools participated, this year there are ten. It's being so well received, that schools are investing their own funds to purchase equipment and to build structures such as greenhouses. This is a great program because students learn math and science by getting down in the dirt. Students understand concepts better by observing natural processes rather than trying to understand what a stale textbook states. New York's Department of Education and Cornell University are watching the program's success, with possible expansion across the state. It's exciting that this is happening right here and Broome County Farm Bureau is more than happy to help out in its success. Exposing children to agriculture in this way can only help our industry in the future.

After another very successful auction in 2017, we wrap up this year knowing that we have been able to help out a lot of folks either through scholarships, monetary donations to many causes, or old-fashioned hard work. It has been a challenging year, weather-wise and economically, but we will continue the fight to bring a safe, healthy, and relatively low-cost food supply to our communities.

Dave Johnson  
Broome County Farm Bureau President

**BROOME COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday October 27, 2017**  
Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Our annual meeting will be held in  
the auditorium of the  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
840 Front Street Binghamton, N.Y.

Welcome by President Dave Johnson

Agricultural Youth Scholarship  
awards

Keynote Speaker: Jordan Patch from  
Animal Adventure in Harpursville

*Please call Judi at 692-3479 to make  
your reservation.*

**RSVP by Oct. 20**

## Membership Report and Nationwide Update

Welcome to our new members for 2017. We have finished off our 2017 membership campaign. Thank you to everyone that helped and supported us. Now we have started our 2018 campaign. This is the best time of year to sign up as a member, as for \$75 you get the rest of 2017 and all of 2018. As always, we can always use your help to maintain our great organization. We all know neighbors, family or businesses that should be members. Joining is easy and convenient. Either get the \$75 check (we can gather the information), go to [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org) or call 1-800-342-4143, using a credit card. It is that easy.

And as usual, we must thank our friends at all the Nationwide Insurance agencies in the county for their help with membership and servicing our members. Stop in for a quote, they are free. Members can get a discount on their auto premiums, as well as on farm insurance. They also have great products for your "toys" (boats, RV's, ATV's, etc.), home and life. We would also like to welcome the Bob Putnam Agency to Broome County. They recently acquired the Nationwide agencies in Whitney Point and on Upper Front Street. Give them a call at 772-0000.



### **New Member Benefit!**



## JOHN DEERE

NYFB members can now receive special access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program. **providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership.**

Discounts on the following categories of equipment

- o \$350-\$3,200 off Commercial Mowing
- o \$100-\$250 off Residential Mowing
- o \$200-\$350 off Utility Vehicles
- o \$200-\$350 off Tractors
- o \$500-\$3,700 off Golf & Sports Turf
- o 17% off MSRP – Commercial Worksite

Just sign up for John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid member ID and zip code for membership verification

visit: [www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau!](http://www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau!)

For other details and restrictions

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***Want to pick apples, walk through a corn maze or ride horses at a nearby farm?***

**E-Lobby the Governor to sign a bill today to establish the inherent risk of equine and agritourism activities on farms. Farms that invite the public onto their land are currently not well protected under the law. They don't want blanket immunity, but If they do everything right, and someone doesn't follow the rules and gets hurt, the farm can be sued. It can cost farmers tens of thousands of dollars just to defend themselves. This prevents many farms from opening their doors.**

**Visit [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org) to E-Lobby Governor Cuomo to sign bill A. 559 today to better protect New York farmers who invite the public to have fun on their farm!**

## Broome County Farm Bureau Proposed Policies to be considered by members for 2018

### State Issues

- Broome County Farm Bureau supports lowering the agriculture assessment threshold for farms of less than 7 acres.
- Broome County Farm Bureau supports that Real Property Tax should be extended.
- Broome County Farm Bureau supports using UAV's for control of nuisance wildlife.
- Broome County Farm Bureau recommends Koji based distilled spirits be eligible for sale at retail for consumption at locations licensed to sell wines.
- Broome County Farm Bureau recommends New York State barn restoration program be reinstated.

### National Issues

- Broome County Farm Bureau recommends that USDA job vacancies be filled timely to allow USDA programs to proceed.

### **MEMBERS ONLY SAVINGS**



Farm Bureau members are eligible to save up to **20% off best available rates** at participating Ascend®, Cambria Suites®, Clarion®, Comfort Inn®, Comfort Suites®, Econo Lodge®, MainStay Suites®, Quality Inn®, Rodeway Inn®, Sleep Inn®, and Suburban Extended Stay® hotels.



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