

Oswego County Farm Bureau Attends State Annual Meeting

Oswego County Farm Bureau joined farmer members from across the state at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in Albany to set the public policy priorities for 2018. The grassroots process was filled with thoughtful discussion and debate on issues important to all types of agriculture ranging from tax policy to music at New York's wineries. "Farmers are facing unprecedented challenges", said Oswego County Farm Bureau President Orion Behling. "We are now more than ever committed to advancing sound policy that will keep our farm doors not only open, but thriving. Our contribution to the economy and health of our state is vitally important and the policies our diverse membership put in place for the coming year will help keep New York an agricultural leader."

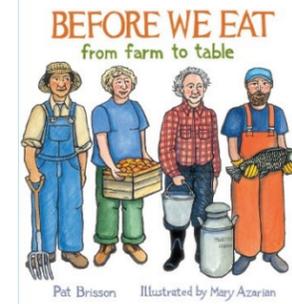


NYFB President David Fisher addresses delegates at the 2017 State Annual Meeting

Delegates from the county Farm Bureau were also recognized for their achievements on behalf of the farm families they represent with five Silver Key awards. Silver Keys are awarded to county Farm Bureaus for attaining outstanding achievements by involving leaders and members in programs serving agriculture. Oswego County exhibited excellence in Agricultural Education & Promotion, County Financial Management, Information & Public Relations, Leadership Development and Policy Implementation— State & National.

Volunteer to Bring Ag into the Classroom

In celebration of agriculture, we are once again taking an active role in **Ag Literacy Week**. It is such a rewarding program to be involved in and we hope you will join us this year. During the week of **March 19-23**, we are looking for volunteers to read *Before We Eat: From Farm to Table*, by Pat Brisson, to elementary school children. The book displays the vast opportunities and diversity that New York agriculture encompasses. Students will be taken on the journey from farm to table to understand different aspects of agriculture and the many possible careers involved. This is a captivating glimpse into what it takes to bring the food we eat to us in order to nourish our bodies and spirits. There are also fun, hands-on related activities to keep kids learning and engaged. If you are interested in participating, please contact Deb Holliday at 315-963-7286 ext. 400 or dah28@cornell.edu.



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



New York Farm Bureau
Young Farmers & Ranchers

YOUNG FARMERS -
AGRICULTURE'S LINK TO THE FUTURE

MARCH 16-17, 2018
HOLIDAY INN, AUBURN



Keynote Speaker - Matt Lohr

All Young Farmers are invited to attend:

- Agricultural Tours
- Motivational Keynote Speaker
- Workshops to benefit you and your business
- Networking with other young agriculturalists
- Updates on State & National issues affecting Agriculture

More details coming soon

800-342-4143

NYFB.org

There are a limited number of special discounts available to cover \$100 in costs. Contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770 or jwagner@nyfb.org for more information.

How to E-Lobby—It's fast and easy:

- Go to www.nyfb.org and click on the green "eLobby-Take Action!" button on the left side of the page under the banner photos, or by clicking the green "Take Action! Advocacy" button.
- Find the letter you want to send and click "Take Action."
- The action alert description will appear followed by the recipients and the letter text. Type in your name and address and press "Send Message" at the bottom of the page.
- Your letter is sent directly to lawmakers and you are helping to impact farm public policy! Encourage your friends to E-Lobby by typing in their e-mail addresses.

If you have any problems using the E-Lobby feature, call the NYFB office at 1-800-342-4143.

Keep an eye on your mailbox or check NYFB.org for a host of issues that you can easily advocate for.

Your voice truly makes a difference!

Here are a few of the priority issues that NYFB will be fighting for in 2018:

- Double the minimum wage tax credit for farmers starting in 2018.
- Oppose unworkable farm labor mandates and make much needed updates and reforms to New York State labor laws and regulations.
- Increase school meal reimbursements to incentivize the purchase of fresh and minimally processed local food.
- Support the removal of an acreage requirement for farms in the agricultural assessment program as long as they meet income eligibility requirements.

New York Farmers Donate Nine Million Pounds of Food to Regional Food Banks

New York Farm Bureau members along with the Food Bank Association of New York State announced last month that farmers from across the state donated nine million pounds of fresh food and farm products in 2017 through the month of November. That translates into more than seven million meals provided to New Yorkers in need. In addition, New York Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee gave a \$500 contribution to the Food Bank Association of New York State.

The food is collected through the "Harvest for All" donation program, a nationwide annual farm donation partnership linking Farm Bureau and Feeding America in each state. In New York, NYFB's Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and the Food Bank Association of New York State administer the statewide donation partnership. The food is then distributed among the ten Feeding America food banks throughout the state.



NYFB Young Farmers and Ranchers joined the Food Bank Association of New York State and New York State Commissioner of Agriculture Richard Ball to announce the generous donations and kick off NYFB's State Annual Meeting in Albany.



Oswego County
Farm Bureau News

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January 2018



President's Report



Happy New Year! I would like to extend my gratitude to each of you for your continued support of our organization. Our strong collective voice will help us enact a sound public policy agenda that will benefit every farmer in 2018.

New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in Albany last month brought together farmers of different backgrounds from across the state to take care of important business, and provided an opportunity to learn from one another. Thank you to our delegates for taking on this important work on behalf of our members.

Planning is well underway for NYFB's Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day. These two days spent in Albany will help us develop meaningful relationships with Senate and Assembly members, especially those lawmakers who do not represent rural districts.

Orion Behling

New York Farm Bureau's Taste of New York Reception is Monday, March 5, in Albany. If you have a farm product you would like to showcase in the Oswego County Farm Bureau booth, please contact Orion Behling at 315-391-9555 or John Wagner at 315-761-9770. This is a great opportunity to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Oswego County agriculture.

Upcoming Events

March 5- Taste of NY
Albany

March 6- NYFB Lobby Day
Albany

March 16-17- YF&R Leadership Conference
Auburn

For more information, NYFB.org or



This issue of the Oswego County Newsletter is sponsored by:



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Oswego County Farm Bureau

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The board usually meets on the first Monday of the month at the Cooperative Extension Office, 3288 Main Street Mexico, NY.



NYFB members can now save up to \$2,500 on new CAT machines.

Including: wheel loaders, skid steers, backhoes, excavators and more.

Members must provide a valid Member Verification certificate at the time of purchase.

Go to NYFB.org/member-benefits to obtain your certificate.



1.800.342.4143
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