

Yates County Farm Bureau Recognized at State Annual Meeting

Yates County Farm Bureau received recognition for their hard work and dedication in advocating, educating and promoting agriculture at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in December. The county Farm Bureau was presented with eight Key Awards for attaining outstanding achievements by involving leaders and members in programs serving agriculture. The awards were presented for excellence in the following categories:

- Agricultural Education & Promotion
- County Financial Management
- Information and Public Relations
- Leadership Development
- Policy Development & Implementation – Local
- Policy Development & Implementation – State and National
- Young Farmers and Ranchers
- Distinguished President



In addition to the Key Awards, Yates County also received a membership bonus award for meeting specific goals by the November first deadline, and board member Paul Enos was given the Most Valuable Volunteer Award for his membership recruitment efforts.

Yates County State and National Elected Officials Directory

State	National
Assemblyman Phil Palmesano 607-776-9691 or 518-455-5791 Senator Tom O'Mara 607-735-9671 or 518-455-2091	Congressman Tom Reed 607-222-2027 or 202-225-3161 Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 315-448-0470 or 202-224-4451

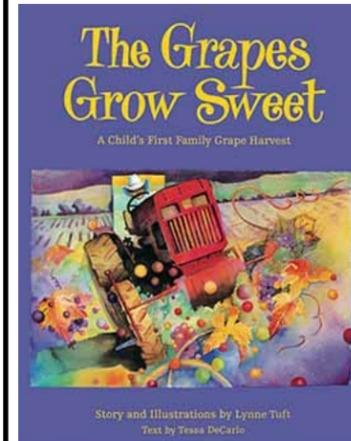
Jane Miles Receives New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship



Jane Miles, a Penn Yan Academy senior, was recently awarded a 2017 New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Jane's journey began at the county level where she competed against other applicants to be named the county winner. She wrote an eloquent essay about the challenges farmers face in educating our lawmakers, especially those that represent urban districts. After being named the Yates County winner, Jane went on to be named the District 3 winner, and finally finished second on the state level. She will receive a \$1,200 scholarship from New York Farm Bureau and an additional \$500 from Yates County.

Jane plans on pursuing an agri-business management degree in college next year and a minor in political science. She intends to eventually return to her family's vineyard and take an active role in advocacy on behalf of every farmer. "It is wonderful to see Jane's passion and dedication to agriculture recognized at the state level," said Yates County Farm Bureau President Larry Lewis. "I have no doubt that she will be a great asset to our industry for future generations to come."

Help 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 hope you will join us this year. The **week of March 20-24**, we are looking for volunteers to read *The Grapes Grow Sweet* by Lynne Tuft to elementary school children. The book wonderfully captures the way of life for over 1,600 family owned vineyards in our state. Students will gain a better understanding of the importance of grapes as an economic driver in our communities and learn more about STEM careers, and post secondary opportunities related to the grape industry; from grape production, research, crop management, processing to, tourism and hospitality. There are also fun, hands-on related activities to keep them learning and engaged.

If you are interested in participating, please contact CCE of Yates County at 315-536-5123.

Encourage a Friend or Neighbor to Join Today!

JOIN NOW

for 2017 & all of 2018

for \$99

Available to New Members Only | Offer Expires June 30th, 2017



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Every Farmer Needs Farm Bureau
Farm Bureau Needs Every Farmer



EVERYFARMER.COM

The New York Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund is an Invaluable Resource in Protecting Agriculture

Worker advocates are trying to bring unions to your farm. The NYCLU, making an end run around our legislative process, filed a lawsuit against the state to declare that the exclusion of farmworkers from collective bargaining is "unconstitutional". The Governor and the State of New York have refused to step up by defending this decades old-state law, which does not permit collective bargaining. NYFB has stepped up to defend the constitutionality of the law. **Help us continue the fight and consider giving to NYFB's Legal Defense Fund!** The resources of NYCLU are extensive. **To contribute, please call 1-800-342-4143 or mail a check to NYFB Legal Defense Fund, PO Box 5330, Albany, NY 12205.** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Celebration of Agriculture Conference

March 31, 2017

DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton
East Syracuse, NY

Costs

NYFB Members: Luncheon & Registration - \$40
 Extended Young Farmer Package (March 31 & April 1)= \$115
 Friday Conference, registration - lunch, dinner + hockey game & Saturday breakfast & tours
 Friday Evening Dinner & Hockey Game ONLY= \$40

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Drones in Agriculture; Bridging the Generational Divide; The Changing Face of NYFB Membership; How to Run or Ruin a Meeting; Speak Up, Speak Out

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 17, 2017

To Register:
800-342-4143
NYFB.org





Yates County
Farm Bureau News

Yates County Farm Bureau News March 2017



President's Report



Greetings,

I'm Larry Lewis, your new county Farm Bureau President. For those of you that don't know me, my family and I moved to Penn

Yan in 1981 to the Castner farm on the Guyawoga Road. I've been farming organically for the last 20 years. My son Matthew and I farm 600 acres, owned and rented. We raise crops for organic dairy and poultry.

I am keeping up with the age of recycling. I was the county President 20 plus years ago, so I guess I'm recycled.

The main reason I agreed to be your President, is that I believe in what Farm Bureau stands for. Farm Bureau is about the only voice in agriculture to stand up and protect our rights as farmers. We are less than 2% of the population feeding the other 98%. We need to be proud of what we do and stand up for that right.

Farm Bureau's strength are in our grassroots leadership, and concerns coming from local membership. I would like to thank you for your membership, but as with most organizations, we are only as strong as our member base. We need the support of our friends, neighbors, and suppliers. Don't be afraid to ask them to join us!

Thank you,
Larry Lewis

You Can Make a Difference

Farmers from across the state will travel to Albany in March for New York Farm Bureau's annual Lobby Day. Yates County will be there to advocate on behalf of all of our members. We will meet with our own elected officials, along with our "adopted" legislators that represent districts far removed from farm communities. These meetings have been an invaluable resource in building relationships with decision makers who don't deal with issues of rural New York on a daily basis. Being able to give them a farmer's perspective, from a farmer, has a profound difference when it is time for them to vote on legislation that impacts agriculture.

You don't have to travel to Albany or Washington to advocate on behalf of agriculture. The New York Farm Bureau website has made it easy for you to contact your legislators to ensure they know your opinion on important issues that affect your farm, your business, and your food supply. Here you will find a host of issues and easy ways to help influence the way government responds toward agriculture. It has been a difficult couple of years, from low commodity prices, minimum wage hikes, excessive taxes to severe overregulation and rising input costs. We need to ensure our government is investing in you, and for future generations to come. Together our collective voice can make a difference.

Inside this newsletter you will find the contact information for your state and national representatives. Reach out and make your voice heard!



Members Only Discount

Farm Bureau members are eligible for \$500 off the purchase or lease of qualified 2016 and 2017 Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicles. From Silverado to Encore to Terrain and more!

- Must be a member for 30 days
- Stackable with other GM offers
- Visit FBVerify.com/GM to print your Membership Verification Certificate

Yates County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Larry Lewis, President	315-531-1906
Dave Pendleton, Vice President....	585-478-5936
Peter Martini, Secretary.....	315-382-2419
Eileen Farnan, Treasurer	315-727-9114
Matt Lewis	315-439-9952
Ed Pinneo	315-536-6379
Paul Enos	315-536-9591
George Disbrow	315-536-8548
Skip Jensen, Field Advisor	315-536-1437
CNYFB Regional Office.....	315-252-1367
NYFB Office and Workers' Comp. .	800-342-4143

Yates County Board Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at 1459 Milo Center Road in Penn Yan.

