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NEWS FROM NEW YORK FARM BUREAU

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NY FARM BUREAU ENJOYED MUCH SUCCESS AT AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

NYFB President reelected to National Board of Directors

San Diego, CA – New York Farm Bureau’s delegation had a successful convention at the 2015 American Farm Bureau Federation’s Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. Approximately 50 delegates, members and staff attended the event that ran from January 11-14.

NYFB was recognized with all six Awards of Excellence. The awards signify outstanding achievements in the following program areas: Education and Outreach; Leadership Development; Member Services; Membership Initiatives; Policy Development and Implementation; and Public Relations and Communications. In addition, New York was one of only six states to receive the New Horizon Award that honors innovative new programming. It acknowledged NYFB’s new “Every Farmer” campaign that highlights the diversity and common bonds of its members.

Wyoming and Chenango County Farm Bureaus also enjoyed the spotlight by winning the AFBF County Activities of Excellence Award. The CAE program acknowledges and shares successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities. Wyoming County won a CAE Education and Ag. Program Award for its “Spudventure” program which educated kids and consumers about the potato, following it from planting to the dinner table. Chenango County received the CAE Membership award for its effort, “Who Do You Call? Farm Bureau.” This program helps individual farms prepare an emergency crisis plan should they need it. The winners were given booth space during AFBF’s 96th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show.

NYFB’s Young Farmer representatives also had a good showing on the national stage. Sarah Blood, from Schoharie County Farm Bureau, made it to the sweet 16 of the Discussion Meet

competition. Her scoring from the first two rounds propelled her deep into the competition. NYFB's Young Farmers were also well represented by Johanna Fox-Bossard from Madison County in the Excellence of Agriculture competition and Stuart Ziehm, the 2014 New York State Achievement Award winner.

Also this week, the Presidents in the Northeast Region Leaders Caucus reelected NYFB President Dean Norton to represent them on the national AFBF Board of Directors. Norton was also elected to serve on the Board's Executive Committee as well. This will ensure New York Farm Bureau will have a voice at the highest levels of farm policy discussion at AFBF.

In addition, several public policy resolutions proposed by New York Farm Bureau that originated at the grassroots level are now part of the AFBF national policy. The resolutions were approved by the full delegate body. These new public policy positions include:

- Support for an agriculture internship option under the G.I. Bill for returning service members.
- The federal government should assume a larger percentage of the costs associated with Medicaid.
- The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) be combined with the FMNP Senior Program that is already a part of the Farm Bill.
- Foreign ownership of agricultural land should be limited to less than a controlling interest.
- The need for a clear policy for implementing income tax filing procedures by H-2A workers who have left the United States and cannot file existing forms on time from their home country.
- Support research and development to better assist farmers in handling weather events and better adapting to weather conditions.
- New equine policies that align with standards from the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Equine Practitioners.
- A resolution advising AFBF to write a letter to New York City Mayor, Bill de Blasio, opposing his efforts to ban NYC horse carriages.

“The success at the AFBF Annual Meeting showcased the strength and respect that New York Farm Bureau has at the national level. I am proud of this organization and the work it does every day on behalf of its members across the state. I would like to congratulate all of the winners, and I look forward to continue representing New York and the Northeast region at AFBF,” said Dean Norton, New York Farm Bureau President.



*Photo attached: New York Farm Bureau President, Dean Norton (L), received the New Horizon Award from American Farm Bureau Federation President, Bob Stallman (R), at the 2015 AFBF Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. The award recognized NYFB for its innovative new membership campaign, “Every Farmer.”

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New York Farm Bureau is the State’s largest agricultural lobbying/trade organization. Its members and the public know the organization as “The Voice of New York Agriculture.” New York Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving the economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural community. www.nyfb.org