



## MEET NEW YORK FARM BUREAU'S PROMOTION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture*

### PROMOTION AND EDUCATION CHAIR—PHYLLIS COUTURE

West Valley, NY



We are pleased to introduce the new Chair of NYFB State Promotion and Education Committee, Phyllis Couture, who resides in West Valley in Cattaraugus County. Phyllis has been the District 1 Pro-Ed representative for the past 4 years.

The Couture Family has had a greenhouse operation since 1970, growing bedding plants, geraniums, and hanging baskets. They sell retail and some wholesale and also have about an acre of vegetable garden and sell vegetables and plants at four local Farmer's Markets. From August 1988 to July 2009 Phyllis also had two retail florist shops.

Phyllis and her husband, Charles, have been long-time NYFB members and actively involved on many levels. They are proud parents of Curt, Brian, and Stacy, PLUS eight grandchildren ages 13-25. In addition to raising the family and busy with the family business (plus the florist shops), Phyllis has found time to devote to her industry. She served as Cattaraugus County President, Vice President, and Board member alternating between these positions from about 1992 - 2003. She sat on the NYFB Board of Directors representing District 1 for a full term from 2003 - 2009 and served on the Task Force on reorganization of Women's committee to our present Promotion and Education status in the early 90's.

On a local level Phyllis has strongly supported 4-H as a leader from 1975 - 1989, on the 4-H Youth Development Committee (80's), Cattaraugus County Cooperative Extension Board of Directors (80's) and received the Cattaraugus County Meritorious Service Award in 1987. She also serves on several committees for the United Methodist Church, as President of United Methodist Women (4 years), as Treasurer of District UMW (1999-2003), and as Vice President of UMW local unit for 4 years. She is a member of the Springville Monday Club, and has served as a Host Family for AFS (American Field Service) from 1988-89 for a student from Sri Lanka.

Phyllis' education background equips her well to work with the Committee. She was awarded a B.S. with a major in Home Economics Education from Albright College in 1963 and a M.S. in Home Economics Education from SUNY at Buffalo in 1974. Her career was not singly focused on horticulture and floriculture, as she worked as a substitute teacher in several school districts from 1968 to 1980 and taught Home Economics on a part time basis from 1980 to- 87 and taught Horticulture part time from 1983 to 87.

Phyllis Couture feels that Farm Bureau has given her the opportunity to be much more politically aware - starting with learning about the legislative process in NY, and then getting up courage enough to go to lobby days and actually meet with the legislators. Today she enjoys a "first name" relationship with her state senator and state assemblyman. She emphatically states, "I feel Farm Bureau is the only farm organization which has a finger on the pulse of all of agriculture and has the best record of legislative accomplishments and credibility at both the state and national level. I feel that education of school children and the public is very important, and I want to be part of that effort as a member of the Pro-Ed. Committee."

New York agriculture is blessed with a membership that cares enough to take an active role. We look forward to Phyllis' input and expertise as we move forward to enhance our constituency and raise the level of agricultural literacy and understanding.

## District 1 — Ann Phillips

North Collins, NY (Appeared in the September 2014 *Grassroots*.)

They say that if you want something done you should ask a busy person...and that is exactly what we did! The District One vacancy on the New York Farm Bureau State Promotion & Education Committee has been officially filled. Ann Phillips from North Collins in Erie County was approved by the NYFB Board of Directors and now represents Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Erie County.

Together Ann and her husband, Dave have six children: Tyler (24), Nevin (20), Natalie Strub (16), Daren (26), Rachel (24), and Jenna (20); five of whom are in college or are college graduates. Her time on the farm is actively engaged with her duties as herd manager for their 1,000 cow dairy. Having grown up on a small family dairy, this was a natural transition for this energetic woman who has a good twenty years under her belt working in the agribusiness field. She has put the knowledge gained at SUNY Alfred and Delaware Valley College and earned a BS degree in dairy science to good work. In addition, Ann and her son, Tyler, own and operate a 100 head beef operation, which consists of a cow/calf herd, specializing in club calves, a growing retail market.

Ann has been a Farm Bureau member for more than twelve years. As we said, she is a busy lady, so add into the mix her roles as a NEDPA member, Erie County 4-H Advisory Committee for Dairy and Beef, Erie County Ag Society, NYS Beef Producer Association, National Cattleman's Beef Association and a Youth Group leader at her church.

When asked "Why is Farm Bureau important to you?" Ann said simply that we need to continue to be a voice for agriculture in both our farming community and the rural/ urban sector... and that is a job the Farm Bureau does so well. Ann is looking forward to meeting more Farm Bureau members and becoming more involved with the State Promotion & Education Committee and all it does.



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## District 2 — Jenny Lundberg

Honeoye Falls, N.Y. (Appeared in the February 2010 issue of *Grassroots*.)

The New York Farm Bureau State Promotion & Education Committee recently welcomed a new District 2 representative, Jenny Lundberg, who hails from Honeoye Falls, a suburb of Rochester, in Monroe County. Her love for horses and the outdoors led Jenny to 4-H, Farm Bureau, and the world of agriculture. She works at the Lehman's farm stand in Pittsford, N.Y. during the summer months, and during the pumpkin and Christmas tree seasons she can be found on a wagon at Stokoe Farms in Scottsville, N.Y. Jenny's perspective and background will add tremendous depth and breadth to the committee.

Jenny serves as a Monroe County Farm Bureau Director as well as Co-Chair of the County 4-H Program (since 2008) and is a member on the Monroe County Fair and Recreation Board. She holds a BA in Economics and is presently pursuing a Masters Degree in Elementary and Special Education where she has chosen to incorporate many of the Ag in the Classroom plans into her lessons.

Jenny was appointed to serve on the State Promotion & Education Consumer Education Committee, which is working to develop a program with a specific focus that addresses concepts of safe food production with environmental consciousness, in addition to a local message of positive economic impact, farmers deserving of a decent living, community involvement and reaching out to engage the youth, who will be our producers in the coming years.

Jenny looks forward to working with the Counties in District 2 and all the volunteers who feel that educating the community is an important step in the relationship process.



## District 3 — Eileen Taylor

Newark, N.Y. (Appeared in the August 2009 issue of *Grassroots*.)

Our District 3 representative on the State ProEd Committee is Eileen Taylor from Newark in Ontario County.

Taylor has been a New York Farm Bureau member for more than 20 years. Born in Syracuse, she and her parents moved to a 100-acre farm in a small town outside the city when she was one. In 1963 they moved to a larger farm in Waterloo where she lived until 1968 when she married John Taylor, also a farmer. John Taylor worked with his parents on their dairy and crop farm. Then the young couple purchased the farm in 1974 which, over the years they have expanded and updated. Starting with 40 cows, the operation then grew to 120 cows. Eileen and John have two sons, Jonathan (who is currently serving as NYFB District 3 Director and on the Executive Committee) and Stephen. In 2007 the farm was sold. Eileen is now a full-time seamstress, utilizing her creative skills, and her husband works on the home farm for the new owners.

When asked why Farm Bureau is important to her, Eileen Taylor answered, "I was a member of the Farm Bureau for many years, first in Wayne County and then in Ontario. When our oldest son, Jonathan, joined and became more involved, I realized how important Farm Bureau is to all farmers through government involvement, networking or helping with the issues, whether it is local, state or national."

She has worked tirelessly on Ontario County's award winning "Fun on the Farm" event as a member of the committee, as well as the District 3 scholarship selection committee. Her involvement has also included the role of Adviser for the Wayne County Jr. Holstein Club (1985-2006); Dairy Bowl coach, Wayne County Holstein Club from 1985-2006, taking two teams to national competition after winning the state competition; Wayne County 4-H Dairy Bowl coach where she had many 4-Hers go on to state and national competitions; Wayne County 4-H Program Development Committee and Wayne County 4-H Advisory Board-dairy representative. Taylor was honored in 2008 for 22 years of volunteer service to Wayne County 4H.

In 1974 when the Taylor's oldest son was ready to start preschool, she looked around town and did not find the learning environment best suited for him, so she started her own, the Newark Cooperative Nursery School. The preschool ran successfully for 32 years. Ann Peck (present Promotion & Education Chair) was hired as the first teacher. This preschool was just the beginning of Eileen's many years working with youth of all ages in her church, her community, county 4-H and Holstein associations. The education seed was planted in her life and continues to grow. It is nurtured by her dedication and enthusiasm in which New York Farm Bureau members can all benefit from.



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## District 4 — Debbie Teeter

Ithaca, N.Y

The District 4 seat on the NYFB State PE Committee has been filled by Debbie Teeter from Ithaca in Tompkins County. Debbie has been a New York Farm Bureau member for more than thirty years and not only is a member, but devotes a great deal of her time to the agricultural industry in many ways.

Debbie's husband, Alan, grew up working on the family farm, which was a dairy in his childhood. When they married, it was a livestock and field crop operation. In their late 20's they decided to take on the farm, and for the next ten years they ran a 75-member CSA and had two children. By the last two years of the CSA, they were farm owners, and the responsibility for the entire farm conflicted with the needs of the CSA, so they had to change their focus. The Teeters now raise Herefords, which are sold as freezer trade and grow grass hay on the rest of the farm.

Debbie and Alan have two children, Alexander, age 26 and Abigail, age 19. Debbie is employed as the Agricultural Program Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. Her immersion in agriculture is total, her commitment and dedication adds to her creativity and broad knowledge.

Debbie has held the office of Promotion & Education Chair, as well as Secretary for the Tompkins County Farm Bureau Board. Other organization involvement includes; Enfield Town Board member, 2010-14; Town Planning Board member, 2005-10; Tompkins County Dairy Promotion Committee, 2006-present; Enfield Volunteer Fire Company, 2008-present, Treasurer since 2010. Debbie received her AAS Degree from Tompkins Cortland Community College and her BA from Ithaca College.

When asked, "Why is Farm Bureau important to you?" she said that, "Farm Bureau is the only organization that is watching out for farmers in NYS; I know staff review every piece of proposed legislation to determine if it is good, bad or indifferent for agriculture. The grassroots, bottom-up policy development structure keeps member concerns at the forefront. The agricultural education and awareness outreach, programs, and resources are excellent. I know from the many, many times I've spoken with farmers, agricultural awareness is a major concern."

The State PE Committee will utilize Debbie's strong communication, organizational, planning, and management skills in the programs and projects planned. Welcome Debbie!



## District 5 — Judi Whittaker

Whitney Point, N.Y. (Appears in the March 2013 issue of Grassroots newspaper)

Judi Whittaker from Whitney Point, Broome County is no stranger to promotion and education or the New York Farm Bureau. She is a 33 year member of NYFB and has been a true advocate for agriculture in many roles and positions. Judi and her husband, Scott, have three children, Brock, Theresa and Aubrey. Their farm, Whittaker Farms LLC, has been in their family since 1915. A barn fire in 1984 totally destroyed their milking facilities. After rebuilding and continuing the operation they bought out a family partner in 2002, and in 2004 brought their son, Brock, into the business. Today they milk 550 head and crop approximately 1600 acres.



Currently Judi is the Broome County Farm Bureau County office manager, serving a county board that includes her husband as President. Her long history includes Chair of NYFB State Promotion and Education Committee and member of the NYFB Board of Directors, Past Chair and Director for the NYFB Foundation, NYFB Membership Committee, AFBF Disney EPCOT Agriculture Exhibit Planning Team, Class 11 of LEAD NY, AFBF Women's Leadership Boot Camp, Broome County Annual Consignment Auction, ag news promotion via local TV, and the NYS FSA Committee, to mention but a portion of her daunting resume.

In 2011, Judi was chosen as a recipient of the HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK Distinction celebration which is sponsored by the New York State Senate. This event showcases outstanding women living and working in New York State whose contributions have greatly enriched the quality of life in their communities and beyond.

Some of her noted achievements demonstrating her impressive management and leadership capabilities included coordination of many local programs that provide a significant positive impact in the Broome County community such as her service as a coordinator for the Broome County Dairy Princess Program and her work as President of the Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club. She is also a founding member of the Farm Days at the Mall an event that brings about 45,000 visitors to the mall to check out local farm displays. Today she continues to support this program by serving on the planning committee. Judi's dynamic involvement continues in other areas as well. These noteworthy accomplishments are only a small testament of her many contributions to the community and beyond.

Her commitment to agriculture has been a blessing in so many ways. When asked "Why is Farm Bureau important to you?" she answered simply, "It is vital that the general public knows how important farmers are to everyone. By continuing the work of New York Farm Bureau, our livelihoods will be showcased and the way in which we supply the food, fiber, and fuel to the general public will be moved forward." We welcome Judi back to the State Promotion & Education Committee, knowing that her role on our team will bring many positives to our work

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## District 6 — Lory Behling

Mexico, N.Y

At the annual business session of the Promotion & Education Committee in December, District 6 delegates caucused and unanimously elected Lori Behling as their representative.

Lori and her husband, Eric, are not strangers to New York Farm Bureau. Lori's Farm Bureau membership is celebrating 19 years! Eric served on the State Board and Lori has been active on the local level at church, scouts and sports committees plus much more. Their farm operation is located in Mexico, NY, which is a beautiful and productive area of Oswego County. Lori joined Behling Orchard's in 1995, and her main focus is working with the agritourism part of business as well as handling the bookkeeping for the farm youth labor force on the farm.



Lori and Eric have six children: Erin Backaus 32, Julie Mason 30, Jenna Behling 19, Deric Behling 31, Rachael Behling 29, and Orion Behling 27. Now that her children are grown, she feels she can become more involved on more than the county level.

Lori's involvement has brought her to the State PE Committee full of expertise and ready to tackle whatever might come her way. She has been a Girl Scout leader since 1981 to present; currently she is in her 12th year as a Girl Scout Service Unit Manager; an 8-year veteran Cookie Coordinator for six townships; Chairman Of Trustees at the First United Methodist Church in Mexico since 2012; and also involved in the Outreach Missions Committee; Operation Christmas Child Team through Samaritan's Purse; and Monday's Meal Coordinator since 2011.

After graduating from High School in 1975 she went to work at Hollister Insurance Agency in Mexico, NY, where she worked from 1975 - 2010 as a licensed agent and office manager. Her schedule is always busy, but her smile and positive outlook never seem to fade. They say that if you want something done you should ask a busy person, and that is just what District 4 has done! When asked, "Why is Farm Bureau important to you?" Lori answered that there is a huge misconception about agriculture in general and she is hoping that between FFA and Farm Bureau we can educate the public.

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## District 7 — Jo Ellen Saumier

Chateaugay, N.Y. (Appeared in the February 2013 issue of *Grassroots*.)

Jo Ellen Saumier from Chateaugay in Franklin County was recently confirmed by the NYFB Board of Directors as the District 7 representative to the NYFB State Promotion and Education Committee. The District that Jo Ellen represents includes Clinton County, Essex County, Franklin County and St. Lawrence County.

Today Jo Ellen and her husband, Kirby Selkirk, run about 250 head of sheep and sell their products based in lamb and wool, at farmers' markets and from their home farm. They share a keen interest and enthusiasm for agriculture.

JoEllen writes about her road to the present, "Some of my fondest memories of growing up are of roaming the fields and following the brook on my uncle's, formerly grandfather's, farm. I loved to help my mother uncover the tips of daffodils and tulips coming up through the piles of leaves that had kept them insulated all winter. I helped my grandmother or mother with the needlework they were doing. Little did I realize that these activities would lead me to a second career.

For 27 years I developed and implemented consumer science programs for Cornell Cooperative Extension. My programs ranged from nutrition basics to installing septic systems and from teaching basic skills to helping organize a housing coalition that built affordable housing in a high cost market.

After retiring from Cornell Cooperative Extension, my husband and I turned a portion of his former dairy farm into a fruit and vegetable farm market. When a chance encounter with 20 sheep needing a new home occurred, we added them to the mix.

It turned out that sheep really like vegetables and fruit. When it got to the point that they were eating more of the vegetables and fruit, than we could harvest, the vegetables and fruits were phased out. This gave me the opportunity to explore the fiber side of farming.

Having been taught to knit by my grandmother as a little girl, I realized after attending a Sheep and Wool Festival that I could indulge myself in the creative needle arts that I had set aside. Instructions to knit a lamb and a needle-felting kit to make a Father Christmas started me on the road to making and selling needle-felted figures, ornaments, and kits from our wool and knitted and felted hats and purses from purchased yarn. I sell them alongside of our retail lamb cuts at farmers' markets, sheep and wool festivals, and from my home."

JoEllen's involvement includes serving on the NY Farm Bureau Organic and Locally Grown Commodity Committee plus serving on the Board of Directors of the Adirondack Farmers' Market Cooperative Inc. for 11 years; serving for 13 years as the Manager of the Chateaugay Lakes Farmers' Market; as President and Board member of the North Burke Rural Cemetery Association; as a Member of New York State Association of Extension Home Economists, including holding several offices including District Chairperson twice; and State President of the National Association of Extension Home Economists. Her education includes an MBA in Management from Pace University, a BS in Home Economics Education from SUNY Plattsburgh and continuing education in Financial Planning. Her extension work and life experience has well prepared her for her role in agriculture and she will be a tremendous asset to the State Promotion and Education Committee.



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## District 8 — Jennifer Jennings

Amsterdam, N.Y. (Appeared in the September 2009 issue of *Grassroots*.)

The District 8 representative is an extremely busy person, as she serves on BOTH the Promotion & Education and the YFR State Committees. Jennifer Jennings lives in Montgomery County, but she is originally from Connecticut, where her parents and brother operated a hay business. Her family moved to Florida, N.Y. in 2002 where they started milking cows full time. Jennifer moved to the farm from London, England in late 2002/2003. She currently works for the Agricultural Stewardship Association, an agricultural land trust that works in Washington and Rensselaer counties.

Although Jennifer has only been a Farm Bureau Member for four years, but has become very involved. On the county level she assumed the role of YFR chair, newsletter editor (2006 - 2008), Political Advocacy Committee (co-chair), Pro-Ed member (2006 - 2008), and Sundae on the Farm Committee (Marketing and Advertising, 2007-present). On the state level she has been a member of the YFR Committee since 2007 and was recently appointed to the Promotion and Education Committee.

Jennifer is involved in the "The Taste of Rensselaer County" (2009 planning committee) and the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce: The Innovative Leaders of Tomorrow (2006 - 2007).

Her background includes a Bachelors of Arts Degree in History from Bryant College; a Masters of Science Degree in Urbanization and Development from the Dept. of Geography and the Environment at the London School of Economics; and recently the AFBF "Boot Camp" in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer feels the Farm Bureau is a meaningful and effective way to be involved in a grassroots organization that shows the democratic process and public participation in action. "The State Annual Meeting is a way of having our voices heard. The policy we develop in those few days are truly what we want on a whole. The fact that the final vote may not be *your* vote is just part of the process and you have a chance to go back again next year to fight for a different result."

When she returned home from London, England she was looking for an outlet to put all of these high ideals of grassroots, democratic processes and public participation into action. She has found that and more through involvement with the Farm Bureau. Over the years she has worked with Young Farmers and Ranchers on county and state levels, participating in the YFR Discussion Meet, working on the collegiate Discussion Meet and America's Second Harvest. She believes that involvement in the program helps to develop well-rounded, well-spoken leaders for New York agriculture, but there is still a lot to be done. Farmers are a romantic ideal to most Americans who are far removed from the realities of day-to-day farm life. It is important to find an effective way to reach out and educate, introduce and invite the general public to know what we do. With that in mind, her position on the State Promotion and Education Committee will propel her forward to meet the challenges and take advantage of all opportunities.

New York agriculture is blessed to have Jennifer's energy, enthusiasm and talent working with Farm Bureau members to make a true difference.



## District 9 — Winnie Nelson

Schoharie, N.Y. (Appeared in the December 2009 issue *Grassroots*.)

The District 9 representative on the State Promotion and Education Committee is just finishing up her first year. Winnie Nelson, from Schoharie County, wears a variety of hats and looks good in all of them! She and her husband, Paul, raised Holstein steers in Delanson from 1979 to 1981. Then they moved to their present farm, which they operated as a dairy from 1981 to 1986 and from 1993 to April of 1998, when their dairy barn burned. Since 2000 they have utilized intensive rotational grazing for beef feeders. Winnie and Paul have two children, Nick and Nate and two grandchildren, Verity and Jack.



Winnie's B.S. in math/education (1967) and MLS in college/special libraries (1971), serves her well in her position on the Committee. She has taught high school math, worked as a reference librarian in three college libraries, as a school librarian, and was the project director at Schoharie County for a NYS grant program to institute and develop a records management program for Schoharie County and all the 16 towns and 6 villages. Since 1995 she has worked as an Information Representative for the NYS Teachers' Retirement System.

Serving as the Schoharie County Farm Bureau President since 2007 and as the secretary in 2006. She has become totally enmeshed in the organization at many levels. As the County Farm Bureau representative on the Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee, she represents one of the County's "Four Partners", which includes the Chamber, Farm Bureau, SUNY Cobleskill and County Legislators. Her promotion and education talents have lent themselves to planning and executing a variety of projects and programs to improve the understanding of agriculture and Farm Bureau throughout the community.

Winnie's 97 year old mother came to live on the farm in February of 2008 and delights in telling tales about her experiences growing up on a farm and feeding the threshing crew, boiling the maple syrup using natural gas, and doing all the farm chores when her father was terribly sick during WWII and her brother and husband were both away in the Army. Those stories are a part of her "ag history" lesson to showcase the true spirit of dedication and hard work exemplified throughout the farming industry.

When asked why Farm Bureau is important to her, Winnie answered, "I grew up as a "townie" but remember my grandparents, my uncle and others in the farming community talking about Farm Bureau and Home Bureau. It didn't mean anything to me at the time but they considered it important. We are an organization whose members get involved to interact and lead not only to support agriculture and ag businesses but also to strengthen our community, our society and our country." Winnie wanted to be sure we noted that her husband has been most supportive of each and every part of her involvement in Farm Bureau. Our hats off to Winnie for all she does!

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## District 10 — Linda Fix

Hudson, N.Y. (Appeared in June 2013 issue of *Grassroots*.)

Linda Fix of Hudson, Columbia County was elected to the State Promotion and Education committee in November, 2012. She is part of a 5<sup>th</sup> generation fruit farm. Fix Brothers Farm raises pick your own cherries, (sweet & sour), peaches, apples and pumpkins. Linda's primary responsibilities on the farm are advertising, Website, Facebook, and all seasonal mailings. Linda currently serves on the Columbia County Farm Bureau Board of directors as Secretary and Treasurer.



Linda is also the coordinator for the Columbia County Backpack Program. This program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when other resources are not available, especially on weekends. She currently has all six school districts in the county involved with the program.

Linda is the chair of the Steering Committee for the Columbia County Leadership Program. This program is designed to help build action-oriented leaders to meet the challenges the area faces in the future.

Linda's degree in Business concentrating on Information Systems/Computer Forensics has been a useful tool for many applications for their family business, outside employment and her many voluntary roles. Farm Bureau is important to her because she feels it helps maintain and continue the family farming values. Linda hopes her new grandchild might be the 6<sup>th</sup> generation on their family farm.

Linda applied for and won the outstanding Pro-Ed award in 2010, also gleaning a National American Farm Bureau Federation County Idea Exchange Award and attending the annual meeting in Hawaii to share her experience with others. Her creativity and exuberance for promoting and educating about an industry she loves truly shows in all she does.

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## District 11 — Kristina Sidor

Riverhead, N.Y. (Appeared in the April 2011 issue of *Grassroots*.)



District 11 is now represented on the State Promotion and Education Committee by Kristina Sidor.

Kristina has deep agricultural roots on the east end of Long Island. Her mother's family runs a 50 year-old farm stand in Northville, where she continues to help out in the busy months of summer and fall. Her father's family grows corn feed, and she assists during planting season in the spring. Her father's family is well known in the community for starting North Fork Chips, which began as a means of keeping the family farm in operation during a struggling economic time. While Kristina is not involved full-time at either farm, she still remains an active advocate for agriculture. She believes the industry serves a great purpose: Feeding people.

Kristina has taken over organizing and running the school education program, where approximately 1,500 fourth grade students are visited by a local Long Island farmer each year. Kristina hopes the program will teach healthy eating habits to children. She has also spent the last couple of years volunteering her time on the Young Farmer & Rancher committee, helping to organize dinners, speakers and farm tours that allow young farmers to network and socialize.

"This organization understands the importance of farming and advocates for the rights of farmers," said Kristina. "NYFB has taught me so much in my past few years on the board." Kristina works hard to share her knowledge of agriculture with everyone she meets. We look forward to working with her on Promotion & Education programs and projects.

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**At Large Member —**  
N.Y.

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## At Large Member — David Tetor

Clinton Corners, N.Y. (Appeared in the June 2009 issue of *Grassroots*.)

The NYFB Promotion and Education Committee is lucky to have an experienced ag promoter and educator as part of its team. Dave Tetor, a well-known agricultural advocate from the Hudson Valley, brings his broadcasting expertise and Cooperative Extension background to become a super resource!

Born and raised on a family dairy/crop farm in the Finger Lakes, Dave's education continued at Cornell University. He worked as a Cornell Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agent for 31 years in Herkimer and Dutchess Counties. Today he is a Dutchess County resident with a long history of ag involvement.

Having served as Vice President of the Dutchess Putnam Westchester Farm Bureau, Dave is well acquainted with the many facets of the organization. In addition, he served as the District 10 State Promotion & Education Committee member for a full three terms, served on the State Annual Meeting Committee and is currently on the Membership Committee. After retiring from the ProEd Committee, he enjoyed a bit of a respite to work more on a local level and has been recently appointed to the At-Large position.

Dave is extremely active in a variety of roles such as Vice President of the Dutchess County IDA, Treasurer of the Pine Plains Vo Ag Advisory Board, the Dutchess County Ag Society, Vice President of the NYS Ag Society, Past President and Board Member of the Cornell CALS, and Past President and Outstanding Young Agent and Distinguished Service Award from the NYS County Ag Agents Association.

He also serves on the Witter Ag Museum Board, the Dutchess Land Conservancy, plus has donated his time, energy and assistance to many other organizations and events. He was recognized for his talents and dedication when presented with the Cornell CALS Outstanding Alumni Award.

Dave presently represents his town as Supervisor and enjoys his free time with his wife, Louise, and children Brian, Mike and Eric and his grandchildren Nick, Melanie, Aiden, Felicia and Cadence.

Dave feels that Farm Bureau is important as it is an organization that speaks up for farmers and agriculture and has clout

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