

Oneida County Farm Bureau

Winter 2023



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message



Oneida County Farm Bureau members,

The new year always brings a renewed sense of optimism for me as I look forward to all the possibilities. This couldn't be more true as we've had some positive news of late that we can all celebrate.

Governor Hochul vetoed the C-Streams bill, stating in her veto message that the bill would have "serious regulatory impacts" and greatly increase the costs to the state and local communities.

NYFB President, David Fisher and NYFB Public Policy Director, Jeff Williams were both named to the newly Reconvened NYS Agricultural Working Group. The goal of which is to cut red tape, reduce regulatory burdens, and foster growth in agriculture within the state.

The American Farm Bureau Federation entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with John Deere recognizing a farmers right to repair their own equipment is also welcome news and it's a step in the right direction.

The due diligence and hard work of our Farm Bureau members have made these things happen. Thank You! I will continue to work hard on behalf of the Oneida County Farm Bureau members because I believe strongly in the work that Farm Bureau and every member does every day.

-John Collins, President

NYFB LOBBY DAY & TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception are scheduled for February 27-28, 2023 in Albany. This is a great opportunity for any Oneida County Farm Bureau member to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Oneida County agriculture.

The Taste NY Reception (February 27) will showcase products from around New York State and Oneida County will have a booth for displaying our great Oneida County agricultural product!

Lobby Day (February 28) will be an opportunity for members to meet with and give a rural production perspective to elected legislators. Oneida County Farm Bureau will also meet with urban "Adopted Legislators." For some, it may be the first contact with an agricultural producer.

Anyone interested in participating in Lobby Day or donating a product for the Taste of NY Reception should contact Karen K. Howard at 315-266-7935 or email cydney83@gmail.com.



ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

MEMBER EVENT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - 7 PM

COPPER CITY BREWING Co.

1111 Oneida Street, Rome, NY

All Oneida County Farm Bureau members are invited to come out and enjoy a relaxing evening at Copper City Brewing Co. Sit back and enjoy a handcrafted pint while enjoying the company and conversation of friends and neighbors. We'll be gathering at 7 PM with a brief board meeting to follow. **Hope to see you there!**



The New York Farm Bureau County Support Office proudly serving Oneida County Farm Bureau has moved. There are currently TWO locations to serve you!

Jill Williamson
NYFB County Support Office
P.O. Box 367
Marietta, NY 13110

Phone: 518-431-5670
Email: jwilliamson@nyfb.org

Felicia Dougherty
NYFB County Support Office
P.O. Box 256
Granville, NY 12832

Phone: 518-431-5650
Email: eny@nyfb.org

ONEIDA COUNTY AG TRIVIA EVENT RECAP

The annual Ag Trivia Event is a major fundraising source for the Oneida County Farm Bureau, funds raised during the event are used throughout the course of the year to support youth activities within the county, including support of 4-H, FFA and the county fair, along with the Oneida County Dairy Promotion Program and Oneida County Farm Fest. Thank you to the over 140 people who attended this year and to the area businesses that supported this year's event with raffle item donations.



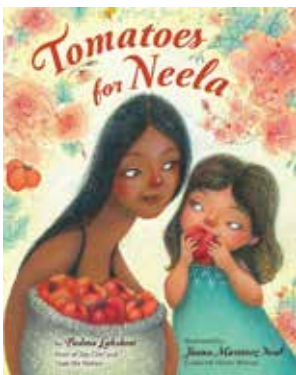
Photo top left: This year's winning team at the Oneida County Ag Trivia Event was Brabant Farms and Friends (Pat and Lory van Lieshout along with three of their farm employees were joined by Ben and Robin Simons), the winning team walked away with wine courtesy of Prospect Falls Winery.

Photo top right: Oneida County Ag Trivia 2nd Place Team this year was from the Madison County Farm Bureau (L – R: Johanna Bossard, Bret Bossard, Theresa Wagner, Brynley Bossard, Darrell Griff and Chris Griff), the team walked away with honey provided by S&R Apiary along with a bag of homemade cookies.

Photo bottom right: Attendees had the opportunity to win a variety of raffle prizes donated by both local Oneida County area businesses and members of the Oneida County Farm Bureau.



AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK MARCH 20-24, 2023



Agricultural Literacy Week is celebrated every year in March with volunteers throughout the state, including Jefferson County, going into elementary schools and reading an agricultural themed book to young children. Following the reading, volunteers conduct an activity with

students and share their experiences in agriculture. The book is then donated to the school or classroom library for students to enjoy and reference throughout the school year.

This year's featured book *Tomatoes for Neela* written

by Padma Lakshmi and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Nealm introduces Neela, a young girl who loves cooking with her amma and writing down the recipes in her notebook. It makes her feel closer to her paati who lives far away in India. On Saturdays, Neela and Amma go to the green market and today they are buying tomatoes to make Paati's famous sauce. But first, Neela needs to learn about all the different kinds of tomatoes they can pick from. And as Neela and Amma cook together, they find a way for Paati to share in both the love and the flavors of the day.

For more information about Ag Literacy Week in Oneida County, contact CCE Oneida County 4-H Program Educator Lynette Kay at lsk23@cornell.edu or phone 315-736-3394 Ext. 105.

STATE ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP

Oneida County Farm Bureau attended New York Farm Bureau's 66th State Annual Meeting held December 7 in Buffalo, NY. They joined other Farm Bureau members from nearly 52 counties that voted on public policy positions and elected new officers and board members to lead the organization. State Annual Meeting is the culmination of the strong grassroots process where farmer members create, discuss, and determine the policy positions that New York Farm Bureau advocates for at the state and federal levels.

Oneida County Farm Bureau received four County Awards of Excellence awards from New York Farm Bureau as part of its end of the year recognition program at State Annual Meeting. The County Excellence Awards are presented to county Farm Bureaus that have exhibited excellence in a variety of categories relating to effectiveness in agriculture promotion and outreach, leadership and county Farm Bureau management, legislative advocacy, and membership.

"The Oneida County Farm Bureau's awards recognize the positive work we do on behalf of our members. We are addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for our members and the greater agricultural community," said John Collins, Oneida County Farm Bureau President.



Photo right: Oneida County member Neil Collins, a member of this year's NYFB State Policy Resolutions Committee introduces policy for debate at this year's State Annual Meeting.

YOUNG FARMER DISCUSSION GROUP

- **Tuesday, February 21** at 7:00 pm at the CCE Oneida Office - **Crop Insurance Q&A, Understanding Crop Insurance Lingo and Selections.** Guest Speaker Daniele Ricci with Crop Growers
- **Thursday, March** at 7:00 pm at Marble Hill Inn (Rescheduled from December) - **Implementing Technologies on Farms, Drilling Down to a Decision.** Guest Speaker Emily Ponte & Various Local Farmer Panelists.

Please plan to arrive early to both YF Discussion Groups. Programming will start promptly at 7:15 pm. RSVP to Marylynn at mrm7@cornell.edu or text (315) 368-8603.

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SET FOR 2023

Below are some of the New York Farm Bureau 2023 legislative priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at the State Annual Meeting held in December. They reflect the collective interest of our members and rural communities and will determine the focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead. For further details of New York Farm Bureau's 2023 priorities, go to NYFB.org go to the Legislative Affairs button under the Advocacy tab.

- Support legislation and budget appropriations that would allow New York to replenish the Unemployment Insurance (UI) trust fund without overburdening businesses with high UI tax bills, specifically the interest assessment, as businesses recover from the pandemic.
- Solar development and the aggregate value of solar lease payments should be utilized as potential development value when property is appraised for PDR values or similar farmland preservation programs.
- Oppose any alteration to Soil and Water Conservation District laws that would change the make-up, mission and function of the State and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts without the statutorily required inclusion and input from County Boards of Supervisors, or county legislatures, New York Farm Bureau, the New York State Grange, NYS Department of Ag & Markets, and the four-way partnership (NRCS, NYACD, the State Committee, and the Employees Association) of the Soil and Water District system.
- Oppose legislation increasing the state's minimum wage, until there is a national wage standard to allow New York's businesses to compete on a national basis.
- Oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants and support strong DEC's regulatory authority over pesticide registration in accordance with sound science.
- Support legislation allowing direct to consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and distillates.



New York Farm Bureau
 159 Wolf Road, Suite 300
 Albany, NY 12205
Oneida County Farm Bureau

**For your
 always
 growing
 side.**



As a loyal New York Farm Bureau member, you may be eligible for a discount on farm insurance.

Nationwide® is proud to be the exclusive insurance provider of the New York Farm Bureau Member Services, offering NYFB members significant savings on farm insurance, and a full range of insurance and financial services.

To speak to your local Nationwide agent contact the Tanner Agency at 315-893-7790 or madison@tiains.com or www.taains.com




To learn more
www.Nationwide.com/nyfb

**ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- PRESIDENT:** John Collins315-750-9179
VICE PRESIDENT: Kathy Gregory-Salvo.....315-796-2109
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 Larry Hobin, Jr.315-790-2040
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YF&R CHAIR Maryellen Baldwin315-525-3039
OFFICE MANAGER/TREASURER
 Lory van Lieshout315-363-9138
FIELD ADVISOR: John Wagner315-761-9770
COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES
 Jill Williamson518-431-5670
 Felicia Dougherty.....518-431-5650
 The board usually meets on the third Monday of the month at the CCE of Oneida in Oriskany.