

Cortland County Farm Bureau

January 2025



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Cortland County Farm Bureau members,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed being together over the holidays. As we enter into 2025, it's a good time to reflect on that togetherness – not just in our personal lives, but togetherness in our agricultural communities as well.

Cortland County Farm Bureau was pleased to attend NYFB's State Annual Convention last month in Verona, NY, where a record crowd enthusiastically shared fellowship, education and new ideas.

Most importantly, delegates from across the state came together in a spirited session on State Annual Meeting Day to vote on our 2025 public policy positions.

Some of our top legislative priorities include supporting critical funding for agricultural animal health; increasing funding for the state Farmworker Housing Program revolving loan fund; increasing and extending the farm workforce retention credit; supporting renewable energy policies that incorporate common sense timeframes; addressing transportation issues to facilitate the shipment of food products and farm equipment in New York State; establishing a New York State Equine Advisory Board; opposing the Temperature Extreme Mitigation (TEMP) act unless there is an exemption for agriculture; opposing legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants; and opposing Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that unduly burdens New York's food and wine manufacturing businesses.

As we get updates on state and federal legislation affecting NYS agriculture, we will update you in email communications, on our social media channels, and in Grassroots.

As always, New York Farm Bureau is committed to promoting and defending agriculture. A recent example

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NYFB TASTE OF NY RECEPTION MARCH 3, 2025 * 5-7 P.M.

EMPIRE STATE PLAZA CONVENTION
CENTER ALBANY, NY

New York Farm Bureau will host its popular Taste of NY Reception at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The event brings together county Farm Bureau members, public officials and staff, and agricultural partners to showcase the diversity of NYS agriculture. This event is followed the next day with NYFB's Lobby Day at the Capitol in Albany on March 4.

Anyone interested in participating in Lobby Day or donating a product for the Taste of NY Reception should contact Matt Kemak at matthew.kemak@gmail.com or Bailey Coon at bcoon@nyfb.org.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED IN FARM BUREAU? ATTEND AN EVENT!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- **February 14:** Kiss the Calf- Fouts Farm and Seven Valleys Health Coalition live streamed fundraiser event @ Fouts Farm
- **February 15:** WNY Farmer's Night Out- Alexander Fire Hall in Attica, NY
- **February 19:** Monthly meeting at Fouts Farm @ 6:30pm.
- **March 1:** Young Farmer & Rancher Social Event- Snow Tubing at Greek Peak
- **March 18:** Cortland County AgSummit
- **March 20:** AgCelebration Dinner @ Tinelli's



Find us on Facebook

Cortland County Farm Bureau

Stay up to date and find out more about our upcoming events!

2025 NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2025 Legislative Priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at the State Convention held in December. These priorities 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.

- Support critical funding for agricultural animal health (such as the Avian Disease Program), promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 25/26 state budget.
- Support a significant funding investment in the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science to forward its mission of collegiate agricultural education, research, and extension. This includes necessary funding to replace teaching resources, capital investment across the college, Cornell University Research Center, the Agricultural Experiment Station and other research facilities across the state.
- Increase funding for the NYS Homes and Community Renewal's Farmworker Housing Program revolving loan fund and increase the per-project cap from \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- Allow construction costs for farmworker housing to be included in the ongoing refundable investment tax credit for agriculture and provide reimbursement for all incurred expenses in a timelier manner.
- Increase and extend the farm workforce retention credit.
- Expand the state's 10-year real property tax exemption for farm buildings to include farm buildings used for the processing or marketing of agricultural products.
- Support funding for the NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health to do research and promote education on temperature-related working conditions before any legislation (such as the Temperature Extreme Mitigation Program Act) is passed.
- Allow farm breweries, cideries and distilleries to sell products at roadside farm markets, like farm wineries.
- Support legislation that would define agribusiness in New York State law.
- Support renewable energy policies that incorporate common-sense timeframes for adoption based upon grid capacity and the practical realities of electrification of New York State.
- Support legislation that would develop a Low Carbon Fuel Standard.
- Support addressing transportation issues to facilitate the shipment of food products and farm equipment in New York State, including addressing issues related to workforce development.
- Establish a New York State Equine Advisory Board to promote the horse industry in New York State.
- Support DEC's regulatory authority over pesticide registration in accordance with sound science and oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants.
- Oppose Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that does not require consumer responsibility for packaging they receive and that unduly burdens New York's food and farm beverage manufacturing businesses.

President's Message Continued

of that commitment is the passage of the Direct to Consumer bill, which offers distilleries and cideries the same shipping privileges as wineries. We fought long and hard for that bill, and our efforts ultimately proved successful.

However, we can't do it alone. Our members are a critical part of our legislative efforts. Please take part in e-lobbying, which only takes a few minutes and is easily found on our website, and monthly calls to action. We also encourage you to join us for the Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day on March 3 and 4 in Albany, one of the most important lobbying events of the year. Lawmakers from across the state must hear from us if we are to be successful.

Cortland County Farm Bureau is here to support our members and help with any local issues that may arise. Please reach out to me or to our board members if you need anything.

I wish you all the best in the year ahead.

Regards,

Emily Olsenwik

Cortland County Farm Bureau President

GERALDINE YOUNG AWARD

The Geraldine Young Friend of Agriculture Award was established by Cortland County Farm Bureau around 1995 to recognize an organization, business or person in Cortland County for their service to agriculture. Nominations are accepted from Farm Bureau members and the winner is selected by the Farm Bureau board.

This award is the brainchild of Geraldine Young, a longtime Farm Bureau member and agricultural advocate. Geraldine was active in farm bureau at the county, state, and national levels with the Pro-Ed committee and promotion and education program. Gerry was a teacher, and she moved to the Homer area to teach Home Economics at the Truxton School. And while she gave up that formal role to devote herself to being a farm wife and mother, Gerry continued to teach in other ways. She shared her passion for agriculture with others at every opportunity, whether at church, at the grocery store, or at the bank; she talked and taught about agriculture whenever she was with other people.

Geraldine understood that agriculture is an important

part of our heritage, interwoven into the very fabric of our community. She often spoke about the values learned on the farm, about hard work, perseverance, and dealing with adversity. Geraldine also acknowledged the importance of agriculture in our economy, and took great pride in touting its place as the number #1 industry in Cortland

County. Lastly she was called to remind everyone that it is our farmers who feed, clothe, and fuel the world.

The Cortland County Farm Bureau is accepting nominations and can be completed via the google form available here: <https://forms.gle/tj31j4Tqr8rVxSJm7> or by emailing: Cortlandcountyfarm@gmail.com.



TWO AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP



New York high school seniors who are graduating and interested in pursuing a career related to agriculture can apply for New York Farm Bureau's Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Eligible students can use the financial

award for college or advanced training in the skilled trades.

Visit the link to apply: https://my.reviewr.com/site/2025_New_York_Farm_Bureau_Agricultural_Youth_Scholarship

Eligibility requirements:

- 2025 graduating high school seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career connected to the agricultural industry. This includes advancing their education through college or pursuing advanced training in the skilled trades.
- Must live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue
- Family Farm Bureau membership or Student Farm Bureau membership is required. Students can join for free as student members by using this link: www.nyfb.org/membership.
- Applicants under the age of 18 must also include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.

For more information email proed@nyfb.org or call 1-800-342-4143.

CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP:



Cortland County Farm Bureau Scholarship is now available! Go to: forms.gle/YMPEcgpDAXjbzoJfA to apply. The QR code below will also get you there!

This is a scholarship for an individual attending college or a trade school in the coming year. In order to apply, you must become a member of the Cortland County Farm Bureau.

Membership is **free** for students ages 16 to 21. You can become a member by following this link: www.nyfb.org/membership.

Awards are up to \$1,000. Payments will be made upon successful completion of one semester of college or course documented by a copy of transcript, completion certificate, or comparable records.

Preference is given to applicants whose family are Farm Bureau members.



**APPLICATION
DEADLINE**

February 18, 2025

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



**CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Emily Olsenwik, President..... | 607-345-7840 |
| Matt Kemak, Vice President..... | 607-849-3347 |
| Amanda Barber, Secretary | 607-597-9363 |
| Mikayla Gates, Treasurer | 607-591-4836 |
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| Vince Pedini..... | 607-849-4086 |
| Julia Fouts, YF&R Chair..... | 607-591-4917 |
| Chelsea Jones, PRO-Ed Chair..... | 607-391-2664 |
| Bailey Coon, County Manager..... | 518-937-0566 |
| CNYFB County Support Office..... | 518-431-5670 |
| ENYFB County Support Office | 518-431-5650 |

The Cortland County Farm Bureau meetings take place at locations around Cortland County on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. The locations for the next few months are as follow:

- **February 19:** Fouts Farms, LLC, 1393 NYS Route 222, Cortland, NY
- **March 20:** Ag Celebration Dinner @ Tinelli's Hathaway House, 3976 NY-41, Cincinnatus, NY
- **April 16:** Hollenbeck's Cider Mill, 1265 Rt. 392, Cortland, NY

We Hope to See You There!



*Must be a New York Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Proof of membership is required. A valid member email address is required for eligibility. Discounts are subject to change without notice. Check out the savings on the following equipment categories; commercial mowing, residential mowing, utility vehicles, tractors, and compact construction. <https://www.deere.com/en/rewards/equipment-discounts/>