

# Jefferson County Farm Bureau News

## Policy Development Issue



### New York Farm Bureau Policy Development Discussion Forum 2024

*This forum explores several emerging issues relevant to agriculture in New York and the U.S. Please review these topics and bring this to your county Farm Bureau policy development meeting and County Annual Meeting this summer and fall as a jumping off point for discussion in your county. These issues are only suggestions. Unique ideas generated from your county Farm Bureau should be an important part of your consideration. These questions are also available on [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org) and in the July issues of Grassroots.*

#### **STATE TOPICS**

1. Should New York Farm Bureau support legislation that would require solar and wind companies to offer a 12.5% royalty on all profits made off of farmers' lands from solar panels and wind turbines?
2. Should New York Farm Bureau support tax credits for farmers to help transition swine operations to group housing from the use of gestational crates?
3. Should New York Farm Bureau support legislation that would prohibit any foreign government from purchasing agricultural land in New York State.
4. What positions should New York Farm Bureau take on the following labor related questions?  
Should New York Farm Bureau support/oppose:
  - Requiring collective bargaining to be included in the license agreements for cannabis production
  - Invalidating any union card or vote which takes place on foreign soil as the regulatory agencies do not have jurisdiction in these locations
  - Decertifying unions through the same procedures allowed to certify unions
  - Including unions in the same regulations and standards employers must follow with regards to bullying, lying and coercion in their unionization efforts.
  - Establishing a moratorium on new union

- petitions until PERB has bilingual resources in place to facilitate union decertification
  - Allowing employees to file coercion and bullying complaints against unions
  - Requiring unions to reimburse employers for all legal fees incurred when their union petition is proven to be out of order.
  - Exempting H2A employees from unions as they are under a contract negotiated by the state and federal Departments of Labor.
5. Should there be a limit on how many times farm commercial vehicles have to stop at a DOT inspection checkpoint in a certain time period, especially if that vehicle is carrying livestock, fish or bees?
  6. Should New York State have a real property tax abatement on perennial farm crops for one year during a state or federally declared disaster area.
  7. Should New York State establish a Brand Owners License under the alcoholic beverage control law?
  8. Should farm implements, such as tractors and farm machinery, be allowed to be transferred to designated beneficiaries upon death of the owner?
  9. Should DEC provide deer damage permits for damages to new maple tree growth?

Is there a state law or regulation that you believe should be changed?

#### **NATIONAL POLICY TOPICS**

*NYFB members are encouraged to review the federal policy book to determine if any existing federal policies need to be amended or added/deleted to be more reflective of changing agricultural issues. Think about federal issues that have impacted you the most over the past year from USDA programs, labor, commodity prices, crop insurance, specialty crop needs, agro-chemical, organic standards, etc., are there policy changes needed to better address these issues. The federal policy book is available online at: <https://www.nyfb.org/advocacy/legislative-affairs/priority-issues>.*

## IT'S POLICY DEVELOPMENT TIME!

Although policy development happens throughout the year, we put an emphasis on it now as we plan for the County Annual Meeting in October and the State Annual Meeting in December. Policy is the core value the organization brings to their members and agriculture. Policy is what forms lobbying efforts in Albany and Washington DC, a push for what the members want and need to help their businesses thrive, and be productive and profitable.

Our policy is formed at the grass roots level by individual members, voted on at county annual meetings, and brought to the state annual meeting for a final vote. Once passed, that policy becomes the platform from which Farm Bureau staff utilizes in their efforts on our behalf.

If you have policy issues that you want addressed, please plan on attending our Policy Development Meeting - see details below. You can also reach out to one of the board members. We want everyone to have an opportunity to contribute to our policy development!

### JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**FIELD ADVISOR:** John Wagner ..... 315-761-9770



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

**Jefferson County Farm Bureau**

### JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**  
begins at 7 pm

held at

**CAZENOVIA EQUIPMENT**  
20897 Alexander Dr, Watertown, NY

One of the most valuable benefits of your Farm Bureau membership is the ability to develop and shape policy for the organization. This is your opportunity as a member, to provide a voice for your sector of agriculture and impact legislation related to our agriculture industry. We'll have some light refreshments available. *We hope to see you there!*