

Wayne County Farm Bureau

April 2025



Presidents Message

I've been thinking a lot about change, which seems to be occurring daily – and quickly – on both state and national levels. The NYFB public policy team is hard at work as they follow ever-evolving issues critical to agriculture and meet with elected representatives in New York and in Washington, D.C. With the new administration in place, it is more important than ever to make our voice heard. And, as recent headlines show, issues like tariffs mean it is also critical to maintain a close working relationship with American Farm Bureau, which fights tirelessly for New York farmers and farmers across the nation.

With change comes uncertainty and, sometimes, fear. While I can't speculate how long the new tariffs will be in place nor exactly how they will affect various agricultural commodities across New York, it's fair to say that higher tariffs are a significant concern for farmers everywhere. NYFB President David Fisher shares this concern and has been discussing the topic regularly with AFBF and fellow Farm Bureaus. Recently, NYFB released this statement:

“The enactment of higher federal tariffs with Canada, Mexico and China is an issue of great concern to the agricultural community in New York. Our farmers are already dealing with razor-thin margins. If these tariffs persist, they may be faced with rising costs of products like potash, a key ingredient in fertilizer, as nearly all of it is imported from Canada. Meanwhile, New York State is number two in the nation for apple production. If Washington State, the number-one producer, cannot export apples, they may sell them in New York at a fraction of the normal cost, which would undercut our farmers' profit margin even further. These, along with retaliatory tariffs, are just a few examples illustrating the trickle-down effects of higher tariffs. U.S. dairy farmers exported

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NYFB TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

New York Farm Bureau hosted its popular Taste of NY Reception at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center the evening of March 3. The event brings together county Farm Bureau members, public officials and staff, and agricultural partners to showcase the diversity of New York State agriculture. Thank you to Motts Applesauce, InterGrow Cherry tomatoes, Fowler Bros Sweet Tango apples, Embark Hard Cider, and Rootstock Hard Cider for providing the products displayed and shared at our Wayne County Farm Bureau booth. Your contributions toward this event are very much appreciated!

Photo (l-r): Wayne County Farm Bureau members Gary Orbaker, Edith Skellie, Dulce Gelina with Senator Pamela Helming, along with additional Wayne County Farm Bureau members Steven Schrieber, Ken Van Fleet and Mark Humbert.



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.

Presidents Message Continued

nearly \$9 billion globally in 2024, with the largest portion of these exports going to Canada, Mexico and China. While we support fair trade, our goal is always to provide affordable and accessible food for all New Yorkers while protecting our agricultural markets and lowering input costs for our farmers.”

But tariffs are just one of many challenges farmers face daily. We continue to fight for a fair Farm Bill, ag labor and disaster relief. And, with several tax provisions critical to farmers expiring at the end of the year, we are joining AFBF to urge Congress to renew provisions like Section 199A, which allows families to deduct part of their business income.

We must be vigilant, and we must speak to our elected officials with an authentic voice. Share your stories with me and with NYFB, who will in turn share your stories with legislators. Support Farm Bureau in any way you can – because together, we are stronger.

David Coene

Wayne County Farm Bureau, President

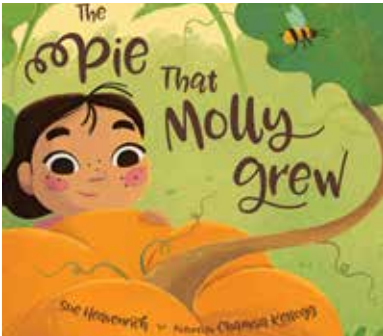
NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day took place Tuesday, March 4. It's a day when Farm Bureau members from across the state come to Albany and meet with elected representatives. Members come to advocate on behalf of policies which are decided and voted on at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in December.

Pictured: Wayne County Farm Bureau members along with Livingston and Monroe County Farm Bureau's met with Senator Pamela Helming during New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day.



BRINGING "THE PIE THAT MOLLY GREW" TO CLASSROOMS



Once again, Agriculture Literacy Week will bring the celebration of agriculture into classrooms across New York State. This year, Agriculture Literacy Week is

set for March 17-21 and aims to help children in kindergarten through third grade understand where their food comes from. This is achieved by introducing them to a carefully selected agriculture-themed book, which is read in classrooms statewide.

In Wayne County, local schoolchildren are participating in the celebration with the help of volunteers who are reading this year's featured book, *The Pie That Molly Grew*. Written by Sue Heavenrich, a New York author from Tioga

County, and illustrated by Chamisa Kellogg, the book follows the journey of Molly as she grows a pumpkin from a single seed. With Molly's tender care and attention, the story highlights each stage of the pumpkin's growth—from seed to sprout, leaves, and finally the fruit on the vine. In the end, Molly turns her beautiful pumpkin into a delicious pie, offering young readers a captivating glimpse into the farm-to-table process.

The Wayne County Farm Bureau is proud to sponsor the purchase of these books, ensuring that they are distributed to classrooms, school libraries, and community libraries throughout the county. This allows children to continue exploring and enjoying Molly's pumpkin-growing adventure long after the reading sessions. Last year, Agriculture Literacy Week saw 3,100 books donated to schools and libraries across New York State, reaching over 103,000 children and giving them the opportunity to learn about agriculture's role in everyday life.

WAYNE COUNTY PROCLAIMS MARCH NATIONAL AG MONTH

On March 18, the County Board of Supervisors proclaimed March as National Ag Month in Wayne County. It is a time to celebrate and recognize the vital role of the agricultural industry, from food production to job creation, and to appreciate the contributions of farmers and ranchers. The signed proclamation encourages all residents to recognize and appreciate the significant contributions of agriculture to the community, state and nation.

Photo: Wayne County Board of Supervisors proclaim March as National Ag Month during the March 18 Board of Supervisors Meeting.



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 Wayne County Farm Bureau



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Our Board of Directors usually meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Office in Newark.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS