

Jefferson County Farm Bureau

January 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message

Dear Farm Bureau members,



Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a nice holiday season. Togetherness is so much a part of the joy we share. It is also the foundation of Farm Bureau.

Our county Farm Bureau participated in last month's New York Farm Bureau State Convention. There was great fellowship and education. Most importantly, delegates from across the state came together to vote on public policy positions for this year.

This laid the groundwork for the planned advocacy on our priority issues. This includes supporting full funding for critical agricultural programs in the state budget along with Nourish NY and the Healthy Schools Meals for All programs that also benefit our family farms. Other priorities include supporting common sense energy policy that won't put New York's farms and rural areas at a disadvantage, allowing for the direct shipment of products by all our craft beverage makers, and a state procurement process that is open and fair to all farms. At the federal level we will continue to engage on a strong Farm Bill that will improve the milk pricing system and expand coverage for our specialty crop producers.

Farm Bureau is also looking to promote and defend agriculture in whatever comes our way this year. One example is the advocacy efforts late in 2023 that averted a ban on important treated seeds and some pesticides critical to many of our farms. We strongly believe in supporting science as part of the regulatory process.

We will need your help to do this. Please take part in the e-lobby efforts and monthly calls to action during this legislative session. Also, join us for the Taste of

NY Reception and Lobby Day on March 4 and 5 in Albany. Lawmakers from across the state must hear from us if we are to be successful.

I wish you all the best in the year ahead. Our county Farm Bureau is here to support our members and help with any local issues. Please reach out to me or the board members if you need anything.

Best,

Kyle Hafemann, President

Jefferson County Farm Bureau



LEAP
INTO THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Make the **LEAP** with New York Young Farmers and Ranchers :

- Leadership
- Engage
- Advocate
- Policy

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
FEB. 2-3**
CORNELL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
COST: \$49.95 PLUS HOTEL
\$69.99 FOR NON-MEMBERS

Invest in yourself and gain inspiration as you expand your network, knowledge, and advocate with other young farmers and professionals passionate about agriculture.

FOR FULL SCHEDULE AND TO REGISTER, GO TO:
<http://tinyurl.com/YFR-Conf2024>
You must log in as a NYFB member.

OR SCAN THIS QR CODE:



For more information, please contact **Renee Ciardi**, NYFB YF&R State Coordinator at rciardi@nyfb.org or 518-461-8659.

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Engaging with Urban Legislators
- Building your Farm Bureau Resume with American Farm Bureau
- Reception with YF&R attendees, NYFB members and Cornell Alumni followed by a hockey game between Cornell and St. Lawrence.
- Panel Discussion -- A Leadership guide to a Successful Career in the Agriculture Community
- Farm Succession Planning
- Land Access for Beginning Farmers



YF&R
FARM BUREAU
YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS



FARM BUREAU
JEFFERSON

2023 JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

Submitted by: Jay Matteson,
Jefferson County Agricultural Coordinator
and Farm Bureau Board Member

Jefferson County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting was held this past fall on October 30. Along with discussion and passage of resolutions and nominations of board members, we also take the time to honor individuals who have shown dedication and commitment to the community and farming life. This year, Jefferson County Farm Bureau was fortunate to be able to recognize one such couple with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award – Douglas W. and Sue Shelmidine.

Doug and Sue, live in Adams NY and run Sheland Farms, in partnership with his brother Todd, and sons, Erik and Devon. Doug and Todd worked alongside their father originally and slowly built up the dairy which is known for environmental stewardship and striving to take good care of their land. With Doug's vision, the farm built an anaerobic digester and manure composting system. Doug's passion for always leading and improving led the farm to use cow manure in more innovative ways such as upcycling manure solids into cow bedding.

Always available to lend a hand, along with his skills and technical know-how Doug has always made himself available throughout the years serving on a multitude of boards and committees which include: Jefferson County Farm Bureau, USDA-NRCS Agricultural Air Quality Task Force, Pro-Dairy/New York Farm Viability Dairy Advisory Committee, New York Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the Jefferson County Agricultural Council, the Jefferson County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board.

Sue Shelmidine's love for her family and the employees of the farm is evident with her facebook posts. She posts about friends, employees and family accomplishments and the meals she prepares, especially during planting and harvest. Sue has an extensive agriculture background. Involved in 4H during her youth, she showed cows and calves in Cayuga County, as well as at the State Fair. She was a Cayuga County Dairy Princess. She's worked in the school district with many different roles but always serving the youth in her community. Friend Barb Greene noted that Sue is a best friend to many and "always there, for whatever the need is!"

Jay Matteson, Jefferson County's Agricultural Coordinator, said, "Over the many years I've served agriculture in Jefferson County and New York State,

this family has created a legacy of service to our local farms, our communities, their faith, and across New York State." "They are an inspiration to all of Jefferson County, not just agriculture," Jay added.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is indeed fortunate to have people like Doug and Sue leading and inspiring by their service to the community.



Photo from L-R: Jefferson County Farm Bureau president Kyle Hafemann presents the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award to Sue and Doug Shelmidine of Adams, NY. Pictured with them is Adam Miner, NYFB District 6 Director.

NYFB LOBBY DAY AND TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception are scheduled for March 4 & 5 in Albany. This is a great opportunity for any Jefferson County Farm Bureau member to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Jefferson County agriculture.

The Taste NY Reception (March 4) will showcase products from around New York State and Jefferson County will have a booth for displaying our great Jefferson County agricultural products!

Lobby Day (March 5) will be an opportunity for members to meet with and give a rural production perspective to elected legislators. Jefferson 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 John Wagner at 315-761-9770 or email jwagner@nyfb.org.

2024 NYFB AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Application link:

https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/2024_New_York_Farm_Bureau_Agricultural_Youth_Scholarship

Eligibility requirements:

- 2024 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. Student membership is complimentary.

- Applicants under the age of 18 must also include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.
- Applications must be completed and submitted by **11:59 pm on March 11, 2024**.

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

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS STATE ANNUAL MEETING

Jefferson County Farm Bureau helped chart the course for agriculture's future at the New York Farm Bureau 2023 State Convention Dec. 4-6 in Tarrytown, NY. County Farm Bureau delegates voted on public policy positions that the state organization will advocate for this year in Albany and Washington, D.C.

Photo: Jefferson County Farm Bureau delegates Devon Shelmidine (l) and Mike Kiechel (r) participating in the resolutions meeting at the New York Farm Bureau 2023 State Convention held Dec. 4-6 in Tarrytown, NY.



JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship with SUNY Jefferson is open and accepting applications for the 2024-2025 year. This scholarship is awarded to a member or family member

of the Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, or St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau, with preference given to Jefferson County who is enrolled in SUNY Jefferson Community College. The scholarship is awarded to any year student at SUNY JCC, with preference given to a second year student, who has financial need and has shown citizenship and leadership through community involvement and/or extracurricular school activities. In order to maintain the award throughout the academic year, the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA. All final applicants must be verified through the Farm Bureau.

For more information, go to: <https://sunnyjefferson.academicworks.com/opportunities/3171>. You must be signed into your SUNY JCC student account to apply.

An advertisement for a Ford F-150 pickup truck. The top left corner features the Farm Bureau logo with the text "MEMBER BUSINESS SOLUTIONS". The top right corner features the Ford logo. The central image shows a silver Ford F-150 pickup truck parked on a dirt road. At the bottom, the text reads "Receive \$500 bonus cash on a NEW F-150".

*Must be a New York Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Proof of membership is required. Member must present Bonus Cash Contribution to dealer at time of purchase. Limit one Bonus Cash offer per vehicle. This offer may not be available in some states. See Ford Motor Company website for details. ©2023 Ford. Some restrictions may apply. This is not for a commercial use. F-150 Regular Cab, Super Cab, Super Duty.

New York Farm Bureau
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Albany, NY 12205



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

This issue of Jefferson County Farm Bureau News Sponsored by:



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JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Kyle Hafemann..... 315-778-6457
VICE PRESIDENT: Michael Kiechle.... 315-778-8110
2nd Vice PRESIDENT: Fred Matthews 315-658-2351
Past President: Devon Shelmidine.. 315-486-8959
Jay Canzonier 315-523-0760
Adam Miner..... 315-775-3774
Tim Eastman..... 315-486-1120
Jay Matteson..... 315-783-2251
Tedra Bean (Pro-Ed Chair)..... 315-783-7067
Charles Jacob Ax (YF&R)..... 315-684-6648

COUNTY MANAGER: John Wagner... 315-761-9770

NYFB COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES:

Jill Williamson..... 518-431-5670
Felicia Dougherty 518-431-5650

Jefferson County Farm Bureau meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except June and December) at Cazenovia Equipment in Watertown.