

WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

MAY 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Springtime is here, and work is starting on farms for the growing season ahead of us.

Good news is that budget season is behind us. Lawmakers in Albany passed a new state budget a few weeks late, but overall, there are many positive things for agriculture. This includes full funding for many of the important commodities, marketing, research, and conservation programs that support our farms. State budget funding is one of the priority issues for Farm Bureau this session.

Our county Farm Bureau traveled to Albany in March for the annual New York Farm Bureau Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day. This is essential to the work of our organization. We met with our local Senators and Assembly Members along with adopted lawmakers from New York City. This was our opportunity to advocate for the budget and discuss the impacts of other proposed legislation that we either support or oppose.

Some of the other priorities this session include expanding the refundable investment tax credit to include farmworker housing. Unfortunately, this was left out of the final state budget, but we will continue to advocate for our essential employees and labor needs. NYFB is also prioritizing legislation allowing for direct-to-consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and spirits.

When it comes to the protection of farmland under stress from potential solar development, New York Farm Bureau also successfully supported language in the final budget document to protect farmland from the state's Build Ready program. The Build Ready program is designed to locate and assess sites within the state that appear suitable for solar development to make it easier to locate installations. New language in the state budget now prevents land used in agricultural production, land in agricultural district or land that contains mineral soil groups 1-4 from being considered for development under this program.

Farm Bureau also has serious concerns about the statewide push for electrification before farms can successfully adopt it or the rural power grid can properly handle the expected surge in use. The state cannot afford to go too far, too fast. We also are pushing back on plans to shift recycling costs onto the backs of producers that include dairy processors and wine makers. For a full look at the state priority issues, you can click under legislative affairs on the New York Farm Bureau website at nyfb.org.

I would encourage you to make your voice heard as well on these issues, by sending an e-lobby message through the website or by participating in the monthly calls to action that come through your email. It takes all of us getting involved to make things happen.

I wish all of you a good spring season, and may this year be fruitful for us all.

David Coene

Wayne County Farm Bureau President

A MESSAGE FROM NY FARMNET

Spring has finally arrived! It's a time when farmers all across the state are gearing up for the year ahead. With so much planning underway, problems, questions, stress, and even opportunities are popping up everywhere.

We would like to take this moment to remind everyone that we are a free, confidential service available to all farmers in NYS. Most of our clients are referred to us by others and we assist with all kinds of issues. Whether you or someone you know has problems, questions, or just needs an extra pair of eyes on something - please give us a call!

For free support 24/7, NY FarmNet can be contacted at 1-800-547-3276 or by email at nyfarmnet@cornell.edu. You can also visit our website at NYFARMNET.org and submit a request for services by filling out a simple electronic form.



WAYNE COUNTY CELEBRATES AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

Each year in March, a Celebration of Agriculture is brought into classrooms throughout New York State with Agricultural Literacy Week. Agricultural Literacy Week, designated as March 18 thru 22 this year, helped children kindergarten through third grade have an awareness of where their food comes from by introducing them to a pre-selected agriculture themed book that is read to classrooms

Wayne County school children had the celebration brought to them this year with volunteers helping to introduce them to the importance of agriculture by reading this year's book titled *I Love Strawberries!* Written by Shannon Anderson with artwork by Jaclyn Sinquett, the book features Jolie and her love of strawberries. Jolie is on an unstoppable mission to grow her own food from seedling to table in this colorful introduction to the joy of growing the



popular perennial.

Through Jolie's comical scrapbook-style journal entries, young readers will learn how she convinces the "old people" (aka her parents) to let her grow her own strawberries. Growing strawberries is a lot of work and responsibility, but Jolie is ready with the help of her faithful rabbit Munchy!

Together they find out just how delicious, rewarding, and sometimes complicated it can be to grow your own food.

Wayne County Farm Bureau was pleased to be able to purchase books that were read to our local students. The books were then distributed throughout classrooms, school libraries and community libraries so that all children in the county can continue to experience and join in Jolie's mission to grow her own strawberries.

WELCOME NANCY GIFT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WAYNE COUNTY

Nancy Gift, a Kentucky native, worked at Cornell from 1995-2002, spending time at Arnot Forest at Cornell Orchards working for Chris Watkins, and as an extension associate under Jane Mt. Pleasant. She earned her Ph.D. through the employee degree program in Crop and Soil Science under Russ Hahn. After spending over 20 years teaching sustainable agriculture and environmental science as a professor, she finally found her way back to upstate New York to be the Executive Director of CCE Wayne County. She has one daughter living in Rochester, one daughter finishing college in Vermont, a stepson in Kentucky, and she is married to Jim Trimble, the priest at St. John's Episcopal Church in Honeoye Falls.



REMEMBER TO E-LOBBY

New York Farm Bureau Lobbying efforts are ongoing and we'd like you to join us! Participating is easy when you go to our website at NYFB.org and click on the e-Lobby-Take Action! Icon. Choose your passion and show elected officials you support New York Agriculture! Current action items that you can help support are:

- Senator Skoufis and Assemblymember Lupardo have introduced two bills on NY Farm Bureau priorities.
 1. S.8761/A.9726 would exempt farmers and farm employees from CDL requirements when operating a covered farm vehicle within 150 miles of their farm, and
 2. S.8762/A.9666 directs the state DOT to create a program so that trucks only have to go through one department of transportation safety checkpoint per day.
- Tell legislators to support direct to consumer shipping for all of New York's farm beverage producers.



WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS LOBBY DAY AND TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception was held on March 4 & 5 in Albany with Wayne County members in attendance. The Taste of NY Reception (March 4) showcased products from around New York State. Lobby Day (March 5) was an opportunity for members to meet with and give a rural production perspective to elected legislators.



Top photo: Senator Pamela Helming stopped by at the Wayne County Farm Bureau Taste of NY Reception table where apples were featured.



Photo left: New York State Assembly member Brian Manktelow (2nd from left) met with Farm Bureau members from Wayne and Monroe Counties to discuss the New York Farm Bureau 2024 Legislative Priorities.

TASTE OF WAYNE COUNTY



The Village of Newark, the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce, and Wayne County Farm Bureau are excited to announce Taste of Wayne County 2024. Mark your calendars for the 6th Taste of Wayne County to be held on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024 from 4:30 to 8:00 PM** along Van Buren Street and in T. Spencer Knight Canal

Park in Newark. Food-related businesses from around Wayne County will be offering samples of signature dishes, food products, and beverages. Live entertainment will be provided during the event.

Presale tickets are currently available online at: <https://www.tasteofwaynecounty.org/product-page/presale-ticket-taste-of-wayne-county-2023> and will be available after June 1 at the Newark Welcome Center on the corner of Van Buren Street and East Avenue.

Event tickets include 15 sample tickets, an event glass and an event utensil: Presale: \$15; At event: \$20. Individual sample tickets will be available at the event for \$2.00 each (\$1.00 if you purchased a full event ticket and need a few extras), but will not come with an event glass.



SAVE THE DATE!

YF&R CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
JUNE 15TH 6PM START TIME
BONNATERRA FARM
2460 COX RD
BLOOMFIELD, NY 14469

Come out and join Livingston, Genesee, Monroe, Ontario, and Wayne county members in a cornhole tournament. Tournament starts promptly at 6PM but food will be available before and during. For more information please contact your county YF&R chair.

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



**WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 - COUNTY MANAGER:**
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- The Wayne County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County office in Newark.



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