

New York Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 5330
Albany, NY 12205



Broome County
Farm Bureau News

Please include 2 letters of reference

References:
1. Name: _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____

2. Name: _____ Phone # _____

Address: _____

Please attach two (2) essays answering the following questions:

- 1. What have you done in the past to promote agriculture, based on your experiences in 4-H, FFA, promotional programs, work, etc?
- 2. How do you plan to use the knowledge gained in college for the future well being of agriculture?

Applicants Signature: _____

Broome County Farm Bureau Membership #: _____

Members Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Relationship of member to applicant:
☐ Self ☐ Parent ☐ Legal Guardian

Members Signature: _____

Broome County Farm Bureau News

April 2018



Bringing Agriculture Back to the Classroom

By Senator Fred Akshar

Since first being elected in 2015 to represent the people of the 52nd Senate District in Broome, Tioga and parts of Chenango and Delaware Counties, it's been a steady and steep learning curve. My 15 years working in law enforcement educated me on our community's needs in a single discipline, but my new job enabled me to learn more about the many industries and disciplines that make up our diverse state and the challenges they face.

Being raised in rural Afton, N.Y., I grew up knowing that agriculture is a way of life and an important economic driver for rural families across our state, but I didn't know just how big an industry agriculture was for New York (\$38 billion-dollars-a-year-big). I didn't know that the average age of a farmer is over 55 years old. While many of our hardworking farmers may look forward to retirement, losing them could be devastating for the industry without a new next generation ready and willing to step-up.

I respectfully offer that too often, we teach our young people that in order to be successful, they must go into a high-tech manufacturing or computer-programming field. I offer that all our kids need to be successful is opportunity, and part of that opportunity is teaching them that not every career choice needs to be in high-tech manufacturing. It's teaching them that many of the jobs of the future are directly connected to agriculture, which is much more than milking goats or bailing hay. It's production, transportation, distribution and more. This is the first step in sustaining and growing the future of food production in our region and across our state.

If we get our kids interested in agriculture today, we'll naturally have a workforce ready for tomorrow.

Understanding the problem and doing something about it are two very different things. That's why in January 2017, I was proud to partner with BOCES, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and local school districts to start bringing agricultural education back into the classroom. Together, we launched a pilot program into five school districts (Harpursville, Maine-Endwell, Owego Apalachin, Union-Endicott and Windsor) to educate our local children on the importance of agriculture, where their food comes from and the career opportunities associated with the ag industry.

CCE administered agricultural classes and curriculum. An Agricultural Educator visited each school regularly throughout the school year, providing 14 lessons per month for each school. Each school's curriculum was customized to suit the needs of individual school districts, with classes ranging from learning about the science and technology of agriculture to touring local farms to growing food at school gardens.

The feedback from the first semester of the program was incredible. Children who had never seen a cow up close were now learning about the dairy industry. Others were growing and eating their own vegetables for the very first time. The excitement and enthusiasm from the program was electric.

After such a successful pilot semester, we decided to double the size of the program for the fall of 2017, expanding to Bainbridge-Guilford, Chenango Valley, Deposit, Greene and Tioga Central for a total of ten school districts.

In addition to the expansion, two schools received \$350,000 each to construct new agricultural laboratories to help bring agricultural education to life for local students in innovative and unprecedented ways.

From the start, I've pledged my commitment to supporting quality education for the children in our community. I've also pledged to be a loud, energetic voice for our farmers and local agriculture. Today, I'm proud to be a part of a team of dedicated partners who share our vision and want to invest in our community's future. I can't wait to see where this partnership goes next.



**** AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT ****
2 DAY AUCTION **

**30th Annual Broome County Farm Bureau
Absolute Consignment Auction
Broome County Fairgrounds –
Whitney Point, NY
Friday, April 27, 2018 @ 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 2018 @ 8:30 a.m.**

**The Largest Absolute Consignment Auction
on the East Coast**

Huge Auction of Tractors, Construction and Farm
Equipment, Livestock, Trucks and Trailers,
Lawn and Garden, Etc., Etc.

Started by Farmers for Farmers

Serving the Agricultural Community for 50 Years.

**Safety Group 486
Workers' Compensation**

25% UPFRONT DISCOUNT <small>*subject to eligibility</small>	PAYING YEARLY DIVIDENDS TO OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1967
COVERAGE FOR 20 AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATIONS	28% AVERAGE DIVIDEND**

** Represents an average dividend over the last 5
years. Dividend levels are not guaranteed.

CONTACT MICHELE OR BECKY
ABOUT OUR WORKERS'
COMPENSATION PROGRAM!



**1.800.342.4143
NYFB.org**

Membership and E-Lobby Information

Spring is here and we are all getting busy out in the fields. In the meantime, don't forget to take advantage of the e-lobby center on the NYFB website and let your voices be heard on a number of subjects including labor, Farm Bill and many more. It is simple, effective and only takes a few minutes. The e-lobby tool will generate a letter to your elected officials in Washington, D.C. and Albany. These letters work, as we have witnessed numerous times when a legislator can hold up hundreds of them in support of or against proposed legislation that affects our rural communities.

As we are a membership organization, getting new members is a year-round duty of all of us. Numbers do matter in Albany, Washington, D.C., and even here in the county. Please consider helping the cause and signing up a neighbor, friend, or relative. Currently, we are having our annual spring membership special. For \$99 a new member can join for the remainder of this year and all of 2019. It is easier than ever to sign up, and you can do it through the NYFB website or by calling 1-800-342-4143 and use a credit card. A strong county Farm Bureau is the base for a strong presence in Albany and Washington, D.C., and we certainly need that in these times of uncertainty and ever-increasing pressures from regulators and activists. Also, don't forget all of our great member discount programs including Grainger, Choice Hotels, Nationwide Insurance, Workers' Compensation and many more.

Visit NYFB.org for additional e-lobby and membership information.

FSA Reminder

Please remember that spring seedings need to be reported by May 15, or no later than 15 days after planting if planted after May 15. If you have questions, please contact the FSA office at 607-723-1384, ext. 2. If you have picked up new farms, please contact the office so maps are ready for your visit.

**Broome County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors**

President, David Johnson 607-725-5176
Vice President, Andrea Eichhorn 607-427-3895
Bill Olin 607-693-2854
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Carol De Young 607-221-6629
State Board Director, Paul Fouts 607-423-6045
NYFB Field Staff, Lindsay Wickham 607-535-3072
Broome County Farm Bureau Office 607-722-4586

**Broome County Farm Bureau, Inc.
First Farm Bureau in the U.S.A.
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, New York 13905
(607) 722-4586**

BROOME COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Up to six \$750 scholarships will be awarded to Farm Bureau Junior members or sons/daughters of current Broome County Farm Bureau members, to assist students who will be enrolled in an undergraduate college program in the upcoming school year. One scholarship of \$1000 will be given in memory of Rance Livingston. Student must be going into the agriculture field.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2018. Absolutely no applications postmarked after May 1 will be accepted. Selection and notification will be made by June 1. Presentation will be made at the Broome County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in October.

Please attach additional sheets if more space is needed for your responses.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ School to Attend: _____

Area of Study: _____

Future Plans: _____

What year of school are you in now? _____ Academic Average: _____

School Presently Attending: _____

Leadership Activities: _____

Work Experience: _____

Agricultural Experience: _____