



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 11, Issue 2

March/April 2018

*Need a Fun
Night Out
With Friends?*

**Trivia
Night**

Pizza & Wings

**Wine & Beer
Tastings**

Call all your friends and see how many teams you can put together for Ag Trivia night this year. Drum up your favorite old rivalries and sign those teams up! Boys vs girls, young vs old, Cobleskill vs Morrisville, Cattaraugus vs East Otto, etc. You choose! Each member of this year's winning team will receive a \$50 gift card.

Need more incentive? How about wine and beer tastings! How about Pizza and a variety of wings! We will once again be voting for Cattaraugus County's best chicken wing! Can the Old Hickory Tavern in Salamanca hold onto its title? Come and vote for your favorite!

Like to win stuff but not sure you can pull out that win with the trivia contest? There will also be a silent auction and door prizes. How can you go wrong? Food, drinks, prizes, and friendly competition! All for \$15 per person!

Still looking for more? How about a good cause! All of the proceeds from Ag Trivia night go to fund local scholarships. These scholarships include our Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau college scholarship as well as moneys given to 4-H and FFA kids to help defer the cost of trips and new projects.

Ag Trivia Night will take place April 14th at the Cattaraugus County Extension Building. Doors open at 7pm and trivia starts at 7:45. Trivia teams will consist of 4 people, ages 21 or over. The beer and wine tastings are in limited quantity and will continue until gone, so please bring your own favorite beverages to supplement your team. Please return the completed registration form below to Darin Hill.



A snapshot of part of the Annual NYFB Taste of NY Reception held in Albany.

Cattaraugus County Meets with County and State Legislators

On February 28th Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Board members went to the County Legislature to talk about agriculture in Cattaraugus County. Darin Hill went back to basics and presented what Farm Bureau is and how it works to the Legislature. After the presentation the legislators were invited to enjoy a buffet of treats provided by the Farm Bureau Board.

On March 5th & 6th Nathan Blesy and Bruce Rosette attended NYFB's Lobby Days in Albany. Lobby Days is an annual event where members from Farm Bureaus across the state come to Albany to show off their agricultural products and to meet one on one with their own legislators and those that represent non-ag areas. This is open to any member, so if you are interested, let us know so we can plan on you for next year!

Team Name: _____

List of Participants:

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Team Contact Email: _____

Mail completed registration form and registration fee to:

Please make checks payable to Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
For more information contact Darin at 716-801-1950 or darin_hill@live.com

Darin Hill
10982 Mosher Hill Rd
Cattaraugus, NY 14719



A Fireside Chat with the County President

Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members,

Farm Bureau: Now More than Ever!

Hopefully we have seen the last of winter. As everyone in production agriculture is facing depressed commodity prices it is ever more important to come together and compose a viable solution. Farm Bureau is the platform that will bring producers together. If there is someone in your community that is in production agriculture and complaining about low prices, please ask them to join Farm Bureau or send me their name and number. We need everyone on board to put the common sense ideas of our members into forming the next Farm Bill.

Recently I had the privilege of being part of a conference call with AFBF president, Zippy Duvall, along with all of the county presidents throughout New York. His main message was just that, Farm Bureau members across the country need to and will be shaping the core of the next farm bill. The main points will be the obvious ones, trade and immigration. He is quite confident we will have a trade agreement with Mexico and Canada in place soon and that President Trump is going to make sure it's the one American farmers have been waiting for. On immigration, he said they are working toward an H2A program that works for Dairy farms.

Farm Bureau membership numbers in New York have been decreasing for a few years now. There has recently been a new statewide committee formed called the "Enhanced Membership Committee". Ben Hollamby of Portville will be representing District 1 on this special committee, it's main focus is on the current dues structure and looking at any potential opportunities for the future.

Please take notice of the information in this newsletter concerning Ag Trivia Night. This again will be a fun-filled evening geared toward raising money for our county's future farmers. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Darin Hill

darin_hill@live.com
716-801-1950

Your Farm Bureau

2018 Directors- Serving our county with pride!

President- Darin Hill.....716-801-1950.....Dairy
Vice President-Nathan Blesy.716-435-7474.....Dairy
Treasurer- Carmen Wright....716-676-2556.....Dairy/Maple
Secretary- Margie Andrews....716-358-2280.....Dairy
Robin Degenfelder.....716-244-8899.....Dairy
Dave Zilker.....716-474-5859.Rural Landowner
Chuck Couture.....716-942-3710.....Greenhouse
Kevin Herman.....716-397-9183.....Dairy
Jim Finch.....716-372-3023.....Beef
Bruce Rosette.....716-244-3118.....Alpaca
Nadyne Litchfield.....716-244-1568..Vegetable/Berry
Andy Vosburg-YFR chair.....716-697-5758.....Dairy
NY Farm Bureau Field Staff: Tim Bigham.....716-474-6585
NY State Board Member: Richard Kimball.....508-965-6400
County ProEd Chair: Alice Wright.....716-676-9963
Nationwide Insurance Rep- Ben Hollamby.....716-933-7864

New Member Benefit!



JOHN DEERE

NYFB members can now receive special access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program.
providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership.

Discounts on the following categories of equipment

- \$350-\$3,200 off Commercial Mowing
- \$100-\$250 off Residential Mowing
- \$200-\$350 off Utility Vehicles
- \$200-\$350 off Tractors
- \$500-\$3,700 off Golf & Sports Turf
- 17% off MSRP – Commercial Worksite

**Just sign up for John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using
a valid member ID and zip code for membership verification**

visit: www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau!

For other details and restrictions

NYFB.ORG/MEMBER-BENEFITS • 1-800-342-4143

Need More Info? Want to get involved, tell us your opinion, or have questions? Please contact anyone on the Board of Directors list above. You can call or text. You can also get a hold of us at our Facebook page or there are often email addresses included in many of the articles, if you prefer. Bottom line: Don't be a stranger! Let us know what you are thinking! This is **YOUR** Farm Bureau. Help us make it work for you!

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!



FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: APRIL 9TH @ 7:30PM
PLACE: EXTENSION BUILDING,
28 PARKSIDE DR, ELLICOTTVILLE

We meet the second Monday of each month (except May). All members are welcome! We would enjoy your input.



AG TRIVIA NIGHT

DATE: APRIL 14TH @ 7:00 PM
PLACE: EXTENSION BUILDING
28 PARKSIDE DR, ELLICOTTVILLE

Come enjoy an evening out with food, friends, and fun. All proceeds benefit our county Farm Bureau scholarship fund.

NYFB 2018 State Priority Issues

These are the issues that people were discussing with legislators at Lobby Days.

- Support funding for critical food safety, animal health, and agricultural promotion and economic development programs in the Agriculture and Markets budget
- Double the minimum wage tax credit for farmers starting in 2018
- Support for funding of Environmental Protection Fund programs that provide cost-sharing of critical farm water quality and farmland protection projects that allow farms to reinvest in their farm business
- Cornell College of Ag & Life Sciences Capital Fund
- Oppose unworkable farm labor mandates and make much needed updates and reforms to NYS labor laws and regulations
- Transfer farm tax assessment functions from the Department of Taxation & Finance to the Department of Ag & Markets
- Increase school reimbursements to incentivize the purchase of fresh and minimally processed local food
- Allow for the registration of UTVs for legal travel on roads from farm to field
- Increase funding for tick-borne disease enhanced detections and vaccine development
- Support the removal of acreage requirement for farms in the agricultural assessment program as long as they meet income eligibility requirements.

www.nyfb.org

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!

E-Lobby Today!

Continue the 10-Year Real Property Tax Exemption on New Farm Buildings

This Crucial Program Needs to Be Extended to Help Farmers Afford Property Taxes

TAKE ACTION

Provide Needed Funding for NY FarmNet

Struggling farm families need services

TAKE ACTION

Restore Honey Bee Research in the State Budget

Support New York Honey Bee Industry!

TAKE ACTION

Go to NYFB.org to E-Lobby on the hot issues you feel strongly about! These issues and many more (19 at the time of publication) are available to lobby with the click of a button!

Scholarships Being Awarded!

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau is proud to announce we have begun disseminating the money from last year's Ag Trivia Night to worthy recipients. Most recently we have awarded money to Madalyn and Emma West (ages 11 & 8) of Gowanda. They will each be starting their very first 4-H pig project this year. Since this will be a new endeavor for them the money will go to offset some of their "start up" costs. Look for Madalyn, Emma, and their first pigs at the county fair this year!

Feeling Overwhelmed?

During these stressful times in the farming community we want to remind farmers that there are resources to help. FarmNet offers many services, including personal well-being. They can help you with a variety of issues including relationship issues, stress management, depression, farm exit adjustment, alcohol and drug issues, grief counseling etc. You can contact them by going online at farmnet.org or by calling 1-800-547-FARM (3276).

We Want to Hear Your Ideas!

What's bugging you? Even though Annual Meeting is 6+ months away, now is the time to start thinking about how things could be improved. See a regulation that is costing you time, money, or energy with little to no benefit? Let us know! Think a new law should be made or more money diverted to a certain source for the benefit of the public? Tell us about it so we can include it in our policy book and fight for the things that you want to see changed! Contact Dave Zilker at 716-474-5859 or dave.zilker@era.com.



We need people to help out with the Ag Discovery tent at the fair. It's a great way to get a little more agricultural knowledge out to the general public. Single day commitments are available! Contact Katie

Hill now at katie_voelker@live.com if you're interested.

Going Green: Choose to be a part of our green initiative! If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, rather than in the mail, please let us know! You can email a request to Barb Blesy at n.blesy@gmail.com

4-H & FFA Students: Money Still Available!

There is still money available for 4-H or FFA students that would like help paying for a trip or to offset the cost of a new project they are undertaking. Interested students should contact Chuck Couture at 716-942-3710 or cpcouture@hotmail.com for an application. Awards are given on a first come, first served basis and will be dispersed to worthy applicants at the discretion of the judges until the money is gone. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity!

Visit the NYFB website for more information:

www.NYFB.org

"Like" the ***Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Facebook Page*** for local updates

Newsletter Questions/Comments? Contact the editor, Barb Blesy at n.blesy@gmail.com or 716-435-5400

Done Reading This? When you're done with your newsletter, please pass it on to someone you think should belong to Farm Bureau. We'd love the opportunity to reach one more person that could benefit from a Farm Bureau membership!

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
Darin Hill - President
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Cattaraugus, NY 14719