

Oneida County Agricultural Promotion Outreaches

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As part of the NYFB State Promotion & Education Committee, we are asked to write an article which every year I find a challenging assignment. Educating the public about agriculture is very important to me, and Oneida County does its share. Being on the committee I have met Chairpersons who I find are more involved in this role than I ever imagined. It is on-going learning process! Oneida County has several activities that promote agriculture. These events educate the public about what we do, assist in the community, and raise scholarship funds for your children who are following in your footsteps. Some of our highlights include:

Lobby Days: We start off with NYFB Taste of New York Reception at Lobby Days, in the past we have a table of the counties delicious products! Prospect Falls Winery, Copper City Brewery, Grassy Cow Cheese and Jakes Gouda Cheese have been part of the reception. The board would love adding to this event.

Ag Literacy Week is in March! The county makes a donation to help cover part of the cost of the books. The books reach many of the schools in the county and this year we will be placing books in the 22 public libraries! This is one of many rewarding projects! The smiles and questions the children have are fantastic! If possible, it would be a great addition to the school readings to have a farmer or someone connected to the agricultural field read to a group of children at the library. Maybe you have an hour or two to bring a smile to a child!

Farm Fest: The last Friday of May brings this amazing event for the school children and the public in the evening. From showcasing an area farm to local vendors who participate, this provides an overview of our County's diversity. Oneida County enjoys educating the attendees about the many different ag aspects in the county.

Our County Fair: This is always a challenge! We are lucky to have donations from area farmers and dealers! Corn for a play area to the tractor with a video playing so the children can imagine driving in a field and beautiful flowers from an area greenhouse, are a few of the donations for the fair. This year 'Lucky the Bull' graced the fair for picture ops! The support from our county to the fair is fantastic! The FFA chapters come and showcase their respective schools! Thus allowing the public to get to know about FFA! Our board is very thankful for the support of the fair!

Remsen Career Day: Board members were asked to talk with the Elementary students about farming and different careers in the industry. We brought along a new born calf that was the hit of the day. We also had various bedding plants and flowers including the edible Nasturtium. Many questions were asked and answered!

Board Meetings: Though out the year the monthly meetings have visited area business. In the past we have gone to Prospect Falls Winery, Woodland Brewery, and Copper City Brewery.

Angell Dairy, Durhamville also hosted a monthly meeting! This is a fun way to socialize and enjoy our local products and visit a local dairy or business you may not have done on your own.

Ag Trivia Night: This event is held to raise funds to support Ag Youth Programs of Oneida County. This year 120 people came out to enjoy an evening of trivia questions and baskets donated from area business. These funds are used for the area 4-H groups, FFA chapters and scholarships. The generous support for this event does not go unnoticed!

As the Pro Ed Chairperson, I encourage you as members of this grassroots organization to become involved or more involved in your County Farm Bureau and help make a your county successful. If you are interested in volunteering to help out or to donate to any of these wonderful activities, please reach out to your board members.

