

Testimonials

“Basically when farmers in New York State have issues they need help with, Farm Bureau is there and it is a strong and effective organization. A piece of that is the ability to defend ourselves.”

*Karen Rivara,
Long Island Farm Bureau President*

“We can’t all pay it ourselves, but if everyone pays a little bit we can do something.”

*Adrian Ooms,
Columbia County Dairy Farmer*



New York Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund

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There are numerous challenges facing the agricultural industry today - to meet those challenges we need a strong Legal Defense Fund. Your help is needed now more than ever.



New York Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund



*Tipping the Scales of Justice
for New York Agriculture*

Support the Legal Defense Fund

The New York Farm Bureau® Legal Defense Fund has relied on contributors like you to support our legal advocacy efforts.

The effectiveness of the Legal Defense Fund is dependent upon our donors to stay strong and able to meet the demands of the future.

If you would like the satisfaction of knowing you are a supporter of agricultural legal advocacy, please donate to:
New York Farm Bureau Legal Defense Fund
159 Wolf Rd, Suite 300, Albany NY 12205

Contributions or gifts to the NYFB Legal Defense Fund are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

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New York Farm Bureau maintains its Legal Defense Fund **to raise money for Farm Bureau's efforts to protect farmers' rights in the legal arena.**

The Legal Defense Fund is utilized in cases that involve a Farm Bureau policy issue and stand to have far-reaching impact on farmers throughout the state.

The fund is not designed to help individual farmers with personal legal problems. It does, however, benefit all of agriculture, since it is utilized in the situations that protect the rights of agriculturists in precedent-setting cases.

Money contained in the fund comes from the generous contributions of County Farm Bureaus, individual farmers, and supporters. Through the years, the NYFB Legal Defense Fund has relied on contributors like you for support.

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How has the Legal Defense Fund been used in the past?

- Assisted **Long Island Farm Bureau** in its defense of a lawsuit filed by animal rights and hunting groups that are attempting to halt a deer cull aimed at protecting farmland and forest growth. This case is still pending.
- Filed a "friend of the court" brief in support of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation when Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club, and the Waterkeeper Alliance, among others, filed suit to invalidate a NYS Final Rulemaking which **increased the number of mature dairy cows from 199 to 299** that would trigger the need for a state CAFO permit at a non-discharging dairy farm. This case is still pending.
- Prepared a "friend of the court" brief in support of the **Lewis Family Farm** in the Adirondack Park, which sought and received local building permits to construct **modular housing for their farm workers**. The farm considered the housing to be "agricultural use structures" under the park's regulations, for which it did not need to seek an APA permit. The APA asserted its jurisdiction and levied significant fines against the farm, and ordered the removal of the housing. Striking the APA's fines and removal order, the court set precedent of incalculable value by finding that farm worker housing fit within the definition of "agricultural use structure" in the Adirondack Park Act.
- Supported Maryland poultry farmers **Kristen and Alan Hudson** who were sued by New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance and the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic for creating a "longstanding manure pile" that discharged pollutants via "trenches" into a field ditch in violation of the Clean Water Act when **the groups mistook** a pile of biosolids, delivered to the farm from Ocean City, as chicken manure. The court found there was no violation of the Clean Water Act or pollution from chicken manure run off and the farm prevailed.

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