

Ulster County Farm Bureau News

September 2023



President's Message

The Ulster County Farm Bureau Board is very excited that for the first time since 2019, we are planning an in-person buffet dinner for our Ulster County Annual Meeting! Mark your calendars to join fellow members for a relaxing dinner (and a little business) the evening of October 4 at Casa Milanese in Highland.



Beyond fellowship, the most important role of the County Annual Meeting is to collect and vote on any new policies we want to be considered for inclusion in the 2024 Policy Book. The policy book determines New York Farm Bureau positions on any potential pending legislation. If you would like to make a proposal for discussion, please send the proposed policy statement (no more than a couple of sentences) to Renee Ciardi (rciardi@nyfb.org) in advance of the meeting and come prepared to present it during the business meeting following dinner.

I wish you a safe and productive fall harvest and look forward to seeing you at the County Annual Meeting!

Sincerely, Kim Wagner

SAVE THE DATE

**New York Farm Bureau
State Annual Meeting**

Dec. 4-6

**Sleepy Hollow Hotel & Convention Center
Tarrytown, NY**

Cordially invited to
County Annual Meeting

**Wed. Oct. 4
Casa Milanese
692 Route 44-55, Highland**

6 p.m. cocktail hour, 7 p.m. dinner

**UCFB Board of Directors is excited
to invite you to a complimentary buffet
dinner. A brief business meeting will follow.**

Cash bar will be available.

**RSVP to County Support Office:
1-518-431-5650 Or email: eny@nyfb.org**

Asking Gov. Hochul to Veto Ban on Neonics and Treated Seeds

New York Farm Bureau is asking you to e-lobby now to send a letter to Gov. Hochul asking her to veto the so-called "Birds and Bees Protection Act" that would essentially ban the use of several Neonicotinoids, including treated seeds, beginning in 2027. This would have a significant impact for many growers, removing a valuable risk management tool from their farms.

In addition, there are e-lobby letters asking Gov. Hochul to veto legislation that would allow local laws to ban pesticides on wetlands as well as a bill that would categorize class C waterways as streams. You can find the letters at NYFB.org.

EPA Releases New WOTUS Rules

The EPA has rewritten “Waters of the United States” rules in an attempt to accommodate the Supreme Court case that was decided earlier this year, *Sackett v. EPA*. Unfortunately, these rules continue to raise concerns for NYFB. While EPA’s 2023 rule defining “waters of the United States” was not directly before the Supreme Court, the decision in *Sackett* made clear that certain aspects of the 2023 rule are invalid.

The amendments issued are limited and change only parts of the 2023 rule that are invalid under the *Sackett v. EPA* decision. For example, today’s final rule removes the significant nexus test from consideration when identifying tributaries and other waters as federally protected.

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



Ulster County Farm Bureau

Ulster County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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|------------------------------|--------------|
| Kim Wagner, President | 845-926-0548 |
| Ray Cullen, Vice President | 845-246-9427 |
| Sarah Dressel, Secretary | 845-234-8872 |
| Jennifer Kohn, Treasurer | 845-629-2990 |
| Dan Heavens | 860-921-7192 |
| Chris Kelder | 845-626-7284 |
| John Kelder, YFR Chair | 845-399-5151 |
| Tim Dressel, NYFB Director | 845-453-2004 |
| Renee Ciardi, County Manager | 518-461-8659 |
| NYFB County Support Office | 518-431-5650 |

HOW YOUR IDEA BECOMES A FARM BUREAU POLICY

1. You have an idea about how to improve agriculture.
2. Your county considers your idea.
3. Attend your County Annual Meeting to support your idea.
4. NYFB Resolutions Committee considers your idea.
5. At State Annual Meeting: Farmers throughout New York vote on your policy idea and if approved, it becomes state policy.
6. Your NYFB policy could turn into American Farm Bureau Federation policy.
7. You benefit from your own policy! After all, it started with you!