

Cayuga County Farm Bureau

Fall 2023



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

All are cordially invited to attend the
CAYUGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 11

held at

POTTERS FARM TO FORK

1951 NY 31 ~ PORT BYRON

Social Time 6:30 p.m. ~ Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person

RSVP BY OCTOBER 4 TO:

jwilliamson@nyfb.org or call 518-431-5670*

** Be sure to reference the Cayuga County Farm Bureau
Annual Meeting when making your reservation.*



SPECIAL GUEST

Kathleen "Kate" Tylutki

Senior Environmental Analyst for the Agricultural Protection Unit at the Department of Agriculture, will be discussing Sound Agricultural Practice Reviews, Right to Farm Laws and Ag Districts.

PRESIDENTS REPORT



Dear Cayuga County Farm Bureau members,

I hope you have had a good summer. Naturally, Mother Nature has challenged some of us, but that comes with the territory.

I am looking forward to the upcoming public policy development process. This is the time of the year where your input can shape the future of agriculture in our county, state and country. If you have concerns or an issue that public policy can address, let me or the county Farm Bureau know about it. We will take it up this fall at our County Annual Meeting. It is the opportunity to vote on policy resolutions that can have a real impact through the organization's advocacy work. There isn't a better system or team in the state that gets results for our members.

Member engagement is key to what we do here at Farm Bureau. I would like to thank the county board members for working with me this year. It helps knowing that people care about local agriculture. If

you are interested in supporting the effort, I would be happy to speak with you about your involvement or an idea you may have for programming, advocacy, or an event.

Finally, save the dates for the County Annual Meeting as well as State Annual Convention that will be held Dec. 4-6 in Tarrytown, NY. Brett Sciotto, who was last year's dynamic keynote speaker, will be back with his team from Aimpoint Research, leading us through a "wargame" scenario to help New York agriculture meet the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. Should be a fun and exciting event.

I hope you're able to make it to our County Annual Meeting on October 11 and I wish you all a good harvest season.

Sincerely,

Jon Patterson

Cayuga County Farm Bureau President

CAYUGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU POLICY DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS 2024

The following resolutions are being brought forward to the County Annual Meeting being held on October 11 for discussion and being voted on for possible submission at the New York Farm Bureau State Annual Convention.

1. "We support research funding to quantify numerous human health benefits derived from a diet rich in dairy Conjugated Linoleic Acid, CLA. Such research findings will expand marketing of new and innovative NYS dairy products."
2. The following are all labor related policies for consideration:
 - Requiring collective bargaining to be included in the license agreements for cannabis production
 - Invalidating any union card or vote which takes place on foreign soil as the regulatory agencies do not have jurisdiction in these locations
 - Decertifying unions through the same procedures allowed to certify unions
 - Including unions in the same regulations and standards employers must follow with regards to bullying, lying and coercion in their unionization efforts.
 - Establishing a moratorium on new union petitions until PERB has bilingual resources in place to facilitate union decertification
 - Allowing employees to file coercion and bullying complaints against unions
 - Requiring unions to reimburse employers for all legal fees incurred when their union petition is proven to be out of order.
 - Exempting H2A employees from unions as they are under a contract negotiated by the state and Departments of Labor.
3. "We support a one year real property tax abatement for agricultural operations during a declared natural disaster"

CAYUGA COUNTY RURAL ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

SUBMITTED BY: Mark James, County Manger

Earlier this year, Cayuga County Farm Bureau convened a meeting with Dan Welch, Cayuga County Cooperative Extension, & Cayuga County Sheriff Brian Schenck to discuss ways to inform the driving public on how to safely interact with farm equipment, farm trucks, horse buggies, and bicycles. A meeting was held with these groups along with county & town highway superintendents and farmers to share ideas on how to improve rural road safety. The results were purchasing two hundred Share the Road signs to be distributed across the county and making slow moving vehicle information available at tourist destinations across the county. Sheriff Schenck initiated an idea to film a Public Service Announcement on rural road safety that would be shared on social media and television and cable stations. In late October, staff from New York Farm Bureau will be filming this PSA in Cayuga County enlisting the help from Sheriff Schenck, first responders and a testimonial from a farmer or farmworker that has been involved in a rural road accident. We plan to release this in the Spring of 2024 just in time for planting season. It is our collective hope that making the driving public aware of the hazards on rural roads will save lives.



FROM THE NYFB DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR



Getting the Word Out!

Communication is a challenge in many businesses and organizations, NYFB included. We have about 12,000 members and 30 plus staff members. Many members participate on county boards, commodity, YF&R and Pro-Ed committees, while many more receive all of their information electronically

or through print.

Members who are involved tend to be up to date by attending meetings in person or on Zoom and hearing the latest updates. Assuming 2,000 members are regularly involved, that leaves 10,000 who want a membership to support and be informed. NYFB has a great communications team comprised of three staff members, who put information out to members on multiple platforms. At the American Farm Bureau's annual recognition conference, our team dominated the communication awards winning 11 total. Congrats to Steve, Brooks and Seth! Here are the regular communication avenues they create and supply:

1. Grassroots – bimonthly, in print or electronic – more feature oriented stories and detailed information. Due to the every-other-month schedule of this newspaper, it is not intended to be the urgent, breaking news.
2. Social media – Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), Podcasts – for those like to follow the latest on these platforms and get it quickly.
3. Email – This is intended to cover everyone quickly, through urgent email blasts whether targeted to certain groups, counties, or all members. Every Thursday afternoon, the Weekly

Update is sent. This contains anything and everything you should need regarding recent developments on public policy, events, regulations, NYFB activities, and much more.

4. Text blasts – we have done this on a limited basis, usually for meeting reminders.

We try to cover all preferred methods of communication. Phone calling is too time consuming to cover such a large organization, although we have done this on a limited, targeted basis.

As a state board member, I don't want you to miss out on important information that can impact your farm or business. I admit, it can be frustrating to hear from members who say they "did not know" about something, whether it be important meeting notices, alerts to changes in law or threats to our industry that need activation from members.

I challenge our members to assign someone in your business to be responsible for keeping up with industry communication. This is an important modern-day reality and requirement of running a business. Ultimately, you should be able to go to your Thursday NYFB email, on your phone, and find everything you need to keep up with.

I would certainly like to hear feedback from any member, including how best to communicate with you. And if you have a question about anything, I can answer it or steer you in the right direction to get you the answer. Good luck with the harvest, and I hope to see many of you at the annual meetings in October.

Kim Skellie, NYFB District 3 Director
315-879-0943 /kimskellie@gmail.com



New York Farm Bureau
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Cayuga County Farm Bureau



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CAYUGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tad Patterson..... 315-255-2161
Matt Pinckney (YF&R Co-Chair)..... 315-359-8231
Rebecca Staehr (Pro-Ed Chair)..... 315-730-9925
COUNTY MANAGER: Mark James..... 585-738-0242
COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICE: Jill Williamson . 518-431-5670

Cayuga County Farm Bureau board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at various locations. Please check with a board member or County Manager for location if you plan on attending.