

Oneida County Farm Bureau

Fall 2023



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

All are cordially invited to attend the

ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16

held at

THE FRANKLIN HOTEL
301 S. James Street, Rome, NY

Social Time 6:30 PM & Dinner 7:00 PM

This year we will be showcasing local products on the menu!

If you are interested in donating food product contact

Karen K. Howard at cydney83@gmail.com no later than Oct. 2.

Donors are responsible for transporting their product(s) to the Franklin Hotel.

Cost: \$15 for members* or \$25 for non members

* Oneida County Farm Bureau is pleased to be able to
sponsor a portion of the meal cost for our members this year.

PLEASE RSVP BY OCT. 10 TO LORY AT
315-363-9138 or lorypat@hotmail.com

**ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
POLICY DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS 2024**

STATE TOPICS

We oppose the creation of tax credits to assist farmers in transitioning swine operations to group housing from the use of gestational crates.

Background: Public Policy staff was approached by the Humane Society of the United States to see if there would potentially be support of such a legislative proposal from New York Farm Bureau. Public Policy staff promised to run the idea through our policy development process.

We support legislation that would prohibit any foreign government from purchasing agricultural land in New York State.

Background: Legislation has been introduced that would prohibit this type of action by foreign governments (S. 6583/A. 6444). A number of state's have seen a sizeable uptick in the purchase of agricultural land by foreign countries. According to USDA data, foreign investors owned at least 35.2 million acres of U.S. agricultural land in 2019, which equals 2.7 percent of U.S. farmland, an area almost the size of Iowa.

While foreign land ownership has been reported in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the holdings are concentrated in particular states. The greatest share is in Texas, with over 4.4 million acres, followed by Maine (3.3 million acres) and Alabama (1.8 million acres). Over 40 percent of the additional 3.4 million acres acquired by foreign investors in 2019 was located in Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

Canadian investors hold the largest share of this land, at 29 percent, with the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom collectively owning another 33 percent. The remaining 38 percent is held by entities from almost a hundred other countries. Although Congress has become increasingly concerned about Chinese land purchases, investors from China currently own only a small fraction of this land, at 191,652 acres (0.05 percent of the total).

The following are all labor related policies for consideration:

- 1. We support invalidating any union card or vote which takes place on foreign soil as the regulatory agencies do not have jurisdiction in these locations.**
- 2. We support decertifying unions through the same procedures allowed to certify unions.**
- 3. We support including unions in the same regulations and standards employers must follow with regards to bullying, lying and coercion in their unionization efforts.**
- 4. We support establishing a moratorium on new union petitions until PERB has bilingual resources in place to facilitate union decertification.**
- 5. We support allowing employees to file coercion and bullying complaints against unions.**
- 6. We support requiring unions to reimburse employers for all legal fees incurred when their union petition is proven to be out of order.**
- 7. We support exempting H2A employees from unions as they are under a contract negotiated by the state and federal Departments of Labor.**

Background: Given the significant increase in union activity on farms in New York State, these questions arise from current experience in the agricultural community. Organizational policy should reflect these developing issues.

We support the creation of a New York State Brand Owners License under the current New York State ABC laws.

Background: A brand owners license would allow alcoholic beverage producers to take part in contract manufacturing. Co-packing arrangements are common among the food and beverage industry and alcohol. Currently, New York State's strict and outdated alcoholic beverage laws do fully work for to allow this. This could increase business opportunities for New York producers and lead to more brands being manufactured within the state. There currently is a bill that would establish a brand owners license introduced (S. 6765/A. 7529).



Save The Date!
ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
7th Annual
AG-TRIVIA & RAFFLE EVENT
FRIDAY, DEC. 1
HARTS HILL INN
135 Clinton Street, Whitesboro, NY
STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

**NYFB ANNOUNCES NEW
BILLING CYCLE & WAYS TO SAVE!**

At the 2022 State Annual Meeting in Buffalo, NYFB delegates voted to approve a change to our billing structure. The votes approved a switch from a calendar year membership renewal cycle to an anniversary date renewal cycle. This is an exciting change that will streamline the process to join and normalize the renewal cycle.

Along with the change to anniversary date membership, discounts will be offered for opting into autorenewal (\$5 savings) and/or digital-only Grassroots (\$6 savings). These options will be available with your membership renewal this Fall and will take the place of the early renewal savings, and new member savings previously offered. Current members will be able to make these selections at renewal time. Bills will be in the mail in early November. If you have any questions about how these changes will impact your membership, please call our Member Advocates at 518-436-8495.



PHOTO: Oneida County Farm Bureau member Ben Simons (c) speaking with USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack (l) along with US Congressman Brandon Williams (r) prior to a recent forum held at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY.

Oneida County Farm Bureau Policy Development Resolutions 2024 Cont.

We believe the DEC should provide deer damage permits for damages to new maple tree growth and should consider baby maple trees as crops for said purpose.

Background: Currently, DEC will not give maple producers deer damage permits for damage caused to new maple tree growth from deer. Deer damage permits can only be obtained for crop damage and DEC doesn't consider baby maple trees as crops.

We oppose any restrictions placed on the practice of neck or halter tethering of calves as a means of keeping them in their designated housing area.

We support revising current USDA regulations to allow beef and other meat animal producers to utilize inspected processing facilities and to market directly to the consumer without a mandated USDA inspection during processing. Sales should be limited directly to the end user and preclude commercial sales; institutions, restaurants, and resale. Labeling requirements should include at a minimum: "for private sale only", "not for commercial use", producer, processor, package contents, date of packaging and weight.

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



Oneida County Farm Bureau

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COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES

Jill Williamson518-431-5670

Felicia Dougherty.....518-431-5650

The board usually meets on the third Monday of the month at
the CCE of Oneida in Oriskany.