



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 17, Issue 1

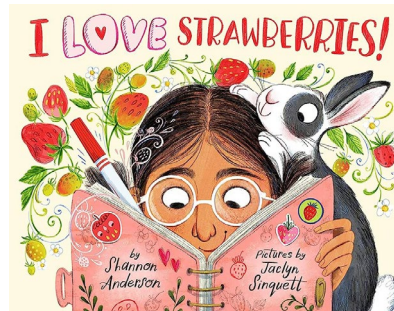
January/February 2024

CCFB Holds Annual Meeting; New President Elected

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau held their County Annual meeting jointly with the Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension's Annual meeting on Friday, October 20th. At the meeting Michael Telaak was elected as the new Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President and Dave Zilker was re-elected Vice President. A new Farm Bureau Board member, Ryan Hatch, was also elected. In addition, Bruce Rossette, AmyJo Burroughs, Thomas Graser, Katie Hill, and Nathan Blesy were re-elected to the board to continue their service to Cattaraugus County agriculture.



2024 Ag Literacy Week: Are You Ready to Read?



The 2024 Ag Literacy book will be *I LOVE Strawberries*, written by Shannon Anderson with art by Jaclyn Sinnett. Ag Literacy week is March 18th-22nd. We will be

reading the chosen book and helping with the attached activity in second grade classrooms all across Cattaraugus County

This year's book is about Jolie- who LOVES strawberries - and she's on an unstoppable (and hilarious) mission to grow her own food from seedling to table. Jolie convinces the "old people" (aka her parents) to let her grow her own strawberries. Growing strawberries is a lot of work and responsibility, but Jolie is ready with the help of her faithful rabbit Munchy! Together they find out just how delicious, rewarding, and sometimes complicated it can be to grow your own food.

Each classroom keeps a copy of the book. This is a free program. If you would like to be a volunteer reader please contact Katie Hill at katie_voelker@live.com or Abby Luzier at ajl387@cornell.edu or (716) 699-2377 x 130.



Come See What Albany and Lobby Days Are All About

Ever wonder what the state legislators are like in person? What about the ones from downstate? What do their offices look like? How can we influence them? Come with us to Lobby Days to learn all about it! Don't be intimidated- everyone there is a Farm Bureau member- just like you. Farmers from all over the state – and from all types of agriculture- come to represent all of us.

And everyone has a "first time". The NYFB staff and the experienced members make it easy. Just follow the crowd the first time. You will see it is not intimidating- it is empowering, enlightening, and-yes- even fun!

On February 27th you will drop your stuff off at the hotel and then head to the Empire State Plaza where there will be a question and answer session, usually with the commissioners of agriculture, labor, and the DEC. This is followed by the Taste of NY Reception where Farm Bureau members and lawmakers come to sample a wide variety of products from NYS (all of which are provided by county Farm Bureaus). While you partake in the wide selection of free fare you may bump into any number of Albany dignitaries whom you can share your farm story with.

Day 2 will also be at the Empire State Plaza where you will receive your folders and be briefed on the talking points and topics you should bring up to your assigned legislators. Most likely you will visit your own legislators and one or two "adopted" legislators downstate. Don't worry- you won't be alone. Farm Bureau members travel in packs! After your meetings you are free to head home at your leisure.

Worried about the cost? The County board will likely cover that for you. Worried about the drive? We might be able to set up a car pooling situation where you would have to drive significantly less, if at all. Contact the director of your choice from the next page if you are interested.



A Fireside Chat with the County President

Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

Hello all, my name is Michael Telaak and I am very excited to have the privilege of being the new president of the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau. I have been a member of Farm Bureau for many years now and am honored to be stepping up to take on this role.

Alongside my father, uncle, and sister, I own and help operate a small dairy farm right here in Mansfield NY. In addition to Farm Bureau, I am also a delegate for Upstate Farms, a board member on the Mansfield Town Board, and a member of our local volunteer Fire Department.

I grew up right here in Cattaraugus County, just outside of Ellicottville, on our family farm. After graduating high school, I ended up deciding to join the United States Air Force. During my time in the Airforce, I had the opportunity to be stationed around the world in Germany, Korea, Turkey and then Montana. After about 6 years of active-duty service, I transitioned to the Air Force Reserves, operating out of Niagara Falls Air Base. During that time is when I decided to go back to college at SUNY Morrisville for Dairy Animal Science, with the intention of coming back home to the farm after completing my studies. The completion of my degree ended up getting delayed by one semester though because I was deployed, through the Reserves, for a tour in Iraq. After returning from Iraq and finally completing my studies at Morrisville, I joined the family dairy farm and eventually worked into a partnership with my father and uncle.

Fast forward to today, my sister has also returned home to the farm, after a short career as a nurse, and has also joined me as a partner. We are currently milking 360 cows, utilizing 6 robotic milkers, growing and harvesting our own crops, and working around 1000 acres of ground. I am sincerely looking forward to working alongside our outstanding board here at Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau- and I look forward to having opportunities to get to know all our members better.

Best wishes this coming year for everyone!

Sincerely,

Michael Telaak

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President

Your Farm Bureau

2024 Directors- Serving our county with pride!

President-Michael Telaak..... 716-969-7676.....Dairy
Vice Pres.- Dave Zilker.....716-474-5859.Rural Landowner
Treasurer- Carmen Wright.....716-676-2556.....Dairy/Maple
Secretary- Margie Andrews.....716-358-2280.....Dairy
Kevin Herman.....716-397-9183.....Dairy
Tom Graser.....716-353-5924.....Dairy
Ryan Hatch.....716-378-9161.....Ag
Katie Hill (Pro-Ed Chair).....716-801-0796.....Dairy
Nathan Blesy.....716-435-7474.....Dairy
Mark Hansen.....716-474-6774.....Dairy
Bruce Rossette.....716-244-3118.....Alpaca
AmyJo Burroughs.....716-392-3623.....Equine
Paige Williams-YFR chair.....716-353-5002.....Crops
NY Farm Bureau Field Staff: Tim Bigham.....716-474-6585
NY State Board Member: Lavern Warriner.....607-426-0521
Nationwide Insurance Rep: Christy Lincoln.....716-713-4848



**MEMBER
BUSINESS
SOLUTIONS**





**Receive \$500 bonus
cash on a NEW F-150**

*Must be a New York Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Proof of membership is required. Members must present Bonus Cash Certificate to dealer at the time of purchase. Limit one bonus cash offer per vehicle. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer eligibility restrictions apply. This incentive is not available on F-150 Raptor, F-600, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty.

Find a Farm- Find a Farmer **nyfarmlandfinder.org**

If you are a farmer looking to sell or rent your land for agricultural use you can post it on this website. Likewise, if you wish to buy or rent farmland for agricultural use you can find it on this website. Besides matching farmers with available farmland there are also resources, events, and contact information for several agricultural entities available on the website. It might be worth checking out!

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Life is stressful- and farming can often pile on the stress even more. FarmNet can your help your farm in a number of ways, but did you know well being counseling was one of them? Contact them at 1-800-547-FARM



Like us on Facebook:
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau

Newsletter Questions/Comments? Contact the editor,
Barb Blesy at n. blesy@gmail.com or 716-435-5400

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!



FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH; 7:30PM

PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER

28 PARKSIDE DR

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month (except May & August). All members are welcome. We would love to hear your input!



YOUNG FARMER CONFERENCE

DATE: FRI, FEB 2ND & SAT, FEB 3RD

PLACE: CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NY

Are you an agriculturalist ages 18-35? Come meet others like you! Workshops and events include timely topics for those early in their ag career as well as a reception and Cornell hockey game.



LOBBY DAYS

DATE: FEBRUARY 27TH & 28TH

PLACE: ALBANY, NY

Interested in seeing the process in action? Join us to meet with our legislators and adopted legislators. Meet other members from across the state. A great way to get a feel for what Farm Bureau is all about! If you're interested contact Tim Bigham at tbigham@nyfb.org



AG LITERACY WEEK

DATE: MARCH 20-24TH

PLACE: AN ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM NEAR YOU!

Read a book to a classroom in your local school!

Contact Katie Hill at katie_voelker@live.com or 716-801-0796 to volunteer.



AG TRIVIA NIGHT

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH

PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER

28 PARKSIDE DR

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

TIME: DOORS OPEN @ 6:30

TRIVIA STARTS @ 7:30

Start planning your teams now! Do you have a business interested in being a sponsor or donating an item for the Chinese Auction? Contact Michael Telaak at 716-969-7676

It's never too early to start thinking about resolutions

Is there some law or regulation you'd like to see changed? Have an idea for something that you'd like Farm Bureau to support or oppose? Contact Dave Zilker at 716-474-5859 to talk about it!

www.nyfb.org

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!

E-Lobby Today!

Go to NYFB.org to E-Lobby on the hot issues you feel strongly about! Lobby with the click of a button!

Want to contact your legislators directly?

Catt County Legislature:

Cattco.org/government/legislators

Joseph M Giglio, Dist 148

giglioj@nyassembly.gov

700 W State St

Olean, NY 14760

716-373-7103

Fax: 716-373-7105

LOB 525

Albany, NY 12248

518-455-5241

Fax: 518-455-5869

Senator George M Borrello

borrello@nysenate.gov

2-6 E Second St

Fenton Building Suite 302

Jamestown, NY 14701

716-664-4603

Fax: 716-664-2430

188 State St

LOB room 406

Albany, NY 12247

518-455-3563

Fax: 518-426-6905

Fighting for Ag in the Courtroom

Unfortunately, modern times have called for an additional forum in the fight for agriculture rights- the courts. Did you know that NYFB and AFBF have been battling in the courts over things like the ban on chlorpyrifos; the taking of land by flooding done by the Army Corps of Engineers; maintaining laws regarding illegal filming of farm activities by animal rights activists; and insisting on free speech and due process rights made clear for both farmers and workers regarding collective bargaining provisions within the Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act.

Also, unfortunately, court proceedings are expensive. NYFB has a legal defense fund specific to this purpose, but it is completely dependent on donations from people like you and our alliance members. If you would like to make a contribution and be a supporter of legal advocacy, you can make a check payable to the **NYFB Legal Defense Fund** and mail to:

NYFB Legal Affairs Dept

159 Wolf Rd

Suite 300

Albany, NY 12205-0330

Or email legal@nyfb.org for more information.

Done Reading This? When you're done with your newsletter please pass it on to someone you think should belong to Farm Bureau. We'd love the opportunity to reach one more person that could benefit from a Farm Bureau membership!

Attention High School Seniors! It's Scholarship Time!

March 11th, 2024 deadline

The NYFB scholarship application is currently available at NYFB.org. Applicants will compete to win a \$250 scholarship from Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, a \$250 district level award, and on the state level NY Farm Bureau will be awarding one-time scholarships to the top two applicants statewide, \$3000 and \$2000.

Applicant Guidelines:

- 2024 graduating high school senior who will continue their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural field.
- Live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue
- Family Farm Bureau Membership or Student Farm Bureau Membership is required.

On nyfb.org the scholarship can be found by clicking on the "Programs" tab, followed by the "Promotion and Education" tab and then the "scholarship" tab. Here a link to the application and instructions on how to fill out it out can be found. Don't forget all submissions must be received by 11:59pm March 11th for consideration!



Attention 4-Hers and FFA student!



Do you know of a 4-Her starting a new animal project or 4-H or FFA students going on a trip that would like a little financial boost? We want to help offset their costs! All ages are encouraged to apply!

The application requires your basic information, plus whatever farm/ agricultural experience you have and a 300-500 word essay. The essay must include what you want to use the money for, what you expect to gain from the experience, who sponsors the trip or activity, and what your total cost is for the trip or activity. In addition, you will need to include your involvement in agricultural, school, and community activities. You must have a Family or Student Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Membership or be sponsored by a Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau member. All 4-Hers and FFA students are welcome to apply.

The application can be obtained by emailing a request to blair_council@nyfb.org or on the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
Michael Telaak- President
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Little Valley, NY 14755