

# Albany County Farm Bureau News

March 2024



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Last September at our annual meeting, Tom Denman spoke a little about Farm Bureau membership. Tom was hired by NYFB with the task of increasing membership and at the meeting he informed us of some very high goals to turn our membership numbers to a positive instead of the slow decline it has

been in for a while. Since September, Tom has identified almost 3,000 leads across the state that are potential farmers that are not members of Farm Bureau. The leads for our county have been given to the BOD and we are trying to contact these people and encourage them to become a member.

The Board can only do so much and although this is a good start, we need to do more to help increase our membership. I would like to ask all Albany County members to think about recruiting. When talking to a friend, family member or anyone you may think has an interest in agriculture, mention Farm Bureau and ask if they are a member. If not, encourage them to sign up!

The word recruiting comes from the Latin word “recrescere” which means “to grow again”. With all of us working together New York Farm Bureau will grow again.

Thank you,

James Gade, President

Albany County Farm Bureau

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## KNOW YOUR BOARD - THOMAS NEWELL

I have been a Farm Bureau member since the early 1970's and an Albany County Farm Bureau board member for probably 20 years. The knowledge, relationships and experiences I have benefited from with this time have been a blessing indeed.

I was raised on my parents' farm in Glenmont, the Sandy Creek Farm. I went to Cornell University in their two year agriculture program in 1965 and returned in 1969 to receive a B.S. degree in agriculture in 1971.

Thereafter, I returned to Glenmont and worked for 3 Farms Dairy, a producer-dealer which had retail and wholesale delivery and a retail store in Selkirk, New York. I was the farm manager there until the cows were sold in 1995. My wife and I lived on the home farm and raised some hogs, grew hay for home farm use as well as for resale. After leaving 3 Farms Dairy when the business there ceased, I became an equipment operator for the Town of Bethlehem. I retired from there in 2015.

My wife, Valerie, and I have been married for 33 years and have three daughters and two grandchildren. We sold our farm property in Glenmont in 2015 and have a small farm in Feura Bush.





Boldly,  
NY.  
[www.newyorkfarms.org](http://www.newyorkfarms.org)



\*Tier 1: Basic Business Support Services (\$50 value - FREE with offer code!) Includes industry conference discounts, and access to a variety of informational webinars. Tier 2: Capacity Building and Educational Services (\$100 value - 50% off with offer code!) Includes access to enhanced webinars on topics like sustainable farming and marketing your grapes. This membership package also provides access to one-on-one consulting with experts in areas like tax, finance, marketing, & sales. Learn more about NYWGF Grower Membership - <http://newyorkwines.org/grower-membership/>



New York Farm Bureau  
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Albany County Farm Bureau

## ALBANY COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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District 8 Director, Paul Molesky, Jr. ..	518-487-1769
County Manager, Renee Ciardi.....	518-461-8659
County Support Office.....	518-431-5650

3rd Annual Friends of the BKW FFA  
**MAPLE BREAKFAST**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**8 AM - NOON (OR SOLD OUT)**

Cost:  
Under 2: Free      2-12 yrs: \$7  
Over 12: \$10      Seniors: \$9

Berne Fire Department  
30 Canaday Hill Road

**50/50 Raffle**

**Featuring Mountain Winds Maple Syrup**

\* Proceeds to benefit the BKW FFA

