

Lewis County Farm Bureau News

January 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message



Dear Farm Bureau members,
Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a nice holiday season. Togetherness is so much a part of the joy we share. It is also the foundation of Farm Bureau.

Our county Farm Bureau participated in last month's New York Farm Bureau State Convention. There was great fellowship and education. Most importantly, delegates from across the state came together to vote on public policy positions for this year.

This laid the groundwork for the planned advocacy on our priority issues. This includes supporting full funding for critical agricultural programs in the state budget along with Nourish NY and the Healthy Schools Meals for All programs that also benefit our family farms. Other priorities include supporting common sense energy policy that won't put New York's farms and rural areas at a disadvantage, allowing for the direct shipment of products by all our craft beverage makers, and a state procurement process that is open and fair to all farms. At the federal level we will continue to engage on a strong Farm Bill that will improve the milk pricing system and expand coverage for our specialty crop producers.

Farm Bureau is also looking to promote and defend agriculture in whatever comes our way this year. One example is the advocacy efforts late in 2023 that averted a ban on important treated seeds and some pesticides critical to many of our farms. We strongly believe in supporting science as part of the regulatory process.

We will need your help to do this. Please take part in the e-lobby efforts and monthly calls to action during this legislative session. Also, join us for the Taste of NY Reception and Lobby Day on March 4 and 5 in Albany. Lawmakers from across the state must hear from us if we are to be successful.

I wish you all the best in the year ahead. Our county Farm Bureau is here to support our members and help with any local issues. Please reach out to me or the board members if you need anything.

Best,

Joe Shultz, President
Lewis County Farm Bureau

The Lewis County Farm Bureau Board has set aside \$650 in funds to help support attendance to the **YF&R LEAP Conference**. Contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770 for details.



LEAP

INTO THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Make the **LEAP** with New York Young Farmers and Ranchers :

Leadership
Engage
Advocate
Policy

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

FEB. 2-3

CORNELL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

COST: \$49.95 PLUS HOTEL

\$69.99 FOR NON-MEMBERS

Invest in yourself and gain inspiration as you expand your network, knowledge, and advocate with other young farmers and professionals passionate about agriculture.

FOR FULL SCHEDULE AND TO REGISTER, GO TO:

<http://tinyurl.com/YFR-Conf2024>

You must log in as a NYFB member.

OR SCAN THIS QR CODE:



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS INCLUDE:

- ✧ Engaging with Urban Legislators
- ✧ Building your Farm Bureau Resume with American Farm Bureau
- ✧ Reception with YF&R attendees, NYFB members and Cornell Alumni followed by a hockey game between Cornell and St. Lawrence.
- ✧ Panel Discussion -- A Leadership guide to a Successful Career in the Agriculture Community
- ✧ Farm Succession Planning
- ✧ Land Access for Beginning Farmers



For more information, please contact **Renee Ciardi**, NYFB YF&R State Coordinator at rciardi@nyfb.org or 518-461-8659.

THREE LEWIS COUNTY FARMS NAMED NYS AG SOCIETY 2024 CENTURY FARMS

New York State Agricultural Society recognized three Lewis County Farms as Century Farms at the 192nd New York State Ag Society Forum held January 11th at the Syracuse OnCenter. Begun in 1937, the Century Farm Award honors New York farms in continuous operation on the same land by the same family for 100 years or more. Congratulations to:

MARKHAM HARVESTING CONSTABLEVILLE, NY



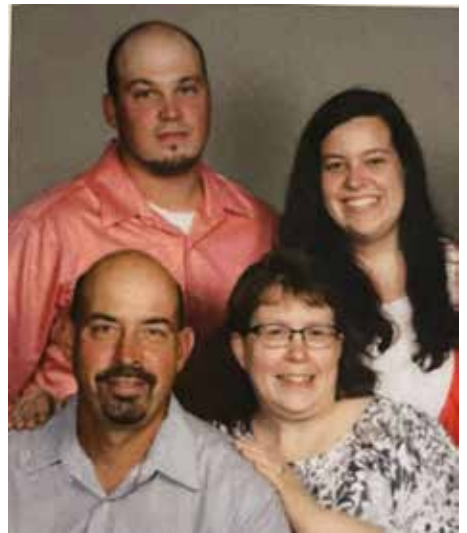
The Markham family - (l-r) Kerin, Cortney, Kyla (fr.), Colden (fr.), Kailyn and Caleb Markham.

Moserdale Dairy Copenhagen, NY



The Moserdale Dairy Family - (l-r) Tom Williams, Patty Moser, Charity Williams, Douglas Moser, Colleen Moser, Andrew Moser, Mara Snyder and Mike Snyder.

Riveredge Farm Castorland, NY



The Lehman Family - (Front) Delvin and Sharon Lehman, (back) Curtis and Kiersten Lehman.

NYFB LOBBY DAY AND TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception are scheduled for March 4 & 5 in Albany. This is a great opportunity for any Lewis County Farm Bureau member to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Lewis County agriculture.

The Taste NY Reception (March 4) will showcase products from around New York State and Lewis County will have a booth for displaying our great Lewis County agricultural product!

Lobby Day (March 5) will be an opportunity for members to meet with and give a rural production perspective to elected legislators. Lewis County Farm Bureau will also meet with urban "Adopted Legislators." For some, it may be the first contact with an agricultural producer.

Anyone interested in participating in Lobby Day or donating a product for the Taste of NY Reception should contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770 or email jwagner@nyfb.org.

8TH ANNUAL LEWIS COUNTY AG TRIVIA CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH @ 6 p.m.

BEAVER RIVER MAIN GYM
9508 ARTZ RD., BEAVER FALLS, NY



\$25 PER PERSON INCLUDES:

appetizers, dinner, beverages, desserts, access to ticket raffle, silent auction and a live auction

Working as a team, 4-6 people will answer 25-30 trivia questions in topics including agriculture, FFA and local history. **Don't have a team?** That's okay! Individuals are encouraged to register.

To register a team (no later than March 20th):

- Rachel Howard - *South Lewis*
315-348-2520 or rhoward@southlewis.org
- Melvin Phelps - *Lowville*
315-376-9015 or mphelps@lowvilleacademy.org
- Morgan Gaylord - *Beaver River*
315-346-1211 or msweeney@brcsd.org
- Alexis Ebersol - *Harrisville*
315-543-2707 or aegersol@hcsk12.org

To benefit Beaver River, Harrisville, Lowville and South Lewis FFA Chapters

2024 NYFB AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Application link:

https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/2024_New_York_Farm_Bureau_Agricultural_Youth_Scholarship

Eligibility requirements:

- 2024 graduating high school seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career connected to the agricultural industry. This includes advancing their education through college or pursuing advanced training in the skilled trades.
- Must 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. Students can join for free as student members by using this link: www.nyfb.org/membership. Student membership is complimentary.

- Applicants under the age of 18 must also include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.
- Applications must be completed and submitted by **11:59 pm on March 11, 2024**.

For more information, email proed@nyfb.org or call 1-800-342-4143

LEWIS COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS STATE ANNUAL MEETING

Lewis County Farm Bureau helped chart the course for agriculture's future at the New York Farm Bureau 2023 State Convention Dec. 4-6 in Tarrytown, NY. County Farm Bureau delegates voted on public policy positions that the state organization will advocate for the 2024 year in Albany and Washington, D.C.

Photo: Lewis County Farm Bureau Delegate Ryan Nortz participating in the resolutions meeting at the New York Farm Bureau 2023 State Convention held Dec. 4-6 in Tarrytown, NY.



LOCAL YOUTH SELECTED FOR NATIONAL GRANGE LEADERSHIP TEAM

This past November at the 157th National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, Garrett Phelps, a member of South Rutland Grange #53 in New York was selected to serve on the Junior and Youth Leadership team for the National Grange.

A senior in high school, Phelps is active in FFA, 4-H, Jefferson County Junior Holstein Club, and Student Council. He is a member of his varsity swim and tennis teams. He is enthusiastic about the Grange and its future and is active in his Community and Pomona Granges, and has been serving as the New York State Grange Youth Ambassador.

Phelps says his big focus is “connectivity.” He has a strong desire to connect and communicate with other local youth organizations at the high school and middle school levels.

Garrett, a resident of Lewis County lives with his parents Melvin and Jen Phelps who are NYS Ag Teachers and NYFB members.

Since 1867, the Grange has been North America's premier nonprofit, nonpartisan, fraternal organization that advocates for rural America and agriculture and brings rural communities together.



Garrett Phelps (3rd from Left) National Grange Youth Leadership Team member stands among the rest of the Leadership Team and advisors.



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

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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.

LEWIS COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Joe Shultz.....315-376-7548

VICE President: Ryan Nortz.....315-376-2059

DIRECTORS:

Barry Widrick.....315-376-6910

TIM YANCEY315-346-6356

MARCIA GOHLERT.....315-376-4047

JEN KARELUS315-486-8820

MELVIN PHELPS.....315-688-2508

COURTNEY EBERSOL.....315-222-8474

COUNTY MANAGER: John Wagner.....315-761-9770

NYFB County Support Offices:

Jill Williamson518-431-5670

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

Lewis County Farm Bureau meets the third Tuesday
of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Soil & Water
Office in Lowville.