

# WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## JANUARY 2024



### President's Message



Happy New Year, fellow Wayne County Farm Bureau members! Recently, I was reflecting about my time with Farm Bureau and came to realize the similarities between our organization and running a farming operation.

As individuals involved in

agriculture, we begin each growing season with planning and an optimistic attitude. However, as the months progress, we are faced with challenges regarding weather, global markets, regulatory concerns, and labor, forcing us to adapt our expectations to meet the reality of the season. We persevere and complete our growing and harvest season so we can optimistically begin the process again for the following year.

As we all begin making plans for the 2024 growing season, your Wayne County Farm Bureau board is also busy collaborating about plans for the upcoming year. Planning is underway for lobbying trips to Albany, Washington, DC, and New York City as we look to interact with local, state, and national decision makers about the concerns and needs of our members.

Additionally, we will support a cohort of young farmers and ranchers from Wayne County as they attend a leadership conference in Ithaca, NY. Partnering with Wayne County Cooperative Extension, we will bring agricultural literacy into our elementary schools through the distribution of farm themed books. Some other highlights of the year I am personally looking forward to are highlighting Wayne County agriculture at the Taste of Wayne festival in Newark, interacting with the Wayne County Board of Supervisors to tell the great story of ag in our county, and exhibiting at the Wayne County Fair to

promote our industry and grow membership in our organization.

It is likely, however, that as the year continues Farm Bureau will encounter many challenges. New laws and regulations are being constantly proposed. Farm Bureau staff and member volunteers work tirelessly for our members on a local, State and Federal level.

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The Wayne County Farm Bureau Board has agreed to cover costs to help support attendance to the **YF&R LEAP Conference**. Contact Amanda Krenning-Muoio at 585-504-8308 for details.



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:



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

# LEAP

INTO THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

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

**Leadership**  
**Engage**  
**Advocate**  
**Policy**

#### 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



## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health (such as the Avian Disease Program), promotion, research, and environmental programs in the final FY 24/25 state budget.
- Support renewable energy policies that incorporate common sense time frames for adoption based upon grid capacity and the practical realities of electrification of New York State.
- Continue funding support for the Nourish-NY program to help farmers provide local, healthy food to underserved and food-insecure communities in the state.
- Oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants and support DEC's regulatory authority over pesticide registration in accordance with sound science.
- Support legislation allowing direct to consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and distillates.
- Oppose Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that doesn't require consumer responsibility for packaging they receive and doesn't unduly burden New York's food and wine manufacturing businesses. We support establishing an infrastructure and market for recycled plastics that is incentive based and economically viable, especially in rural areas. To address these issues we support exploring an expansion of the current bottle bill statute.
- Incentivize more locally produced food purchases by public entities without values-based purchasing requirements.
- We support addressing transportation issues to facilitate the shipment of food products and farm equipment in New York State, including:
  - A limit on how many times commercial vehicles have to stop at a DOT inspection checkpoint in a certain time period, especially if that vehicle is carrying livestock, fish, bees, or other perishable commodities.
  - An exemption from CDL for farm owners and employees hauling farm equipment or produce within 150 miles of a farm without an F or G endorsement, similar to exemptions in other states.
- Target federal and state infrastructure funding for rural roads, bridges and broadband.
- Ensure that the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health continue to regulate water quality standards in accordance with federal law.
- Support full funding of the Healthy School Meals For All program.

### SAVE THE DATE

YOUNG FARMER & RANCHER EVENING AT

**BLACK BUTTON DISTILLING**

**1344 UNIVERSITY AVENUE**

**ROCHESTER, NY**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15**

**\$25 at the door includes food and drink ticket**

We're still planning the details, but all young farmers, ranchers, and ag professionals (ages 21-35) are welcome to attend our event on Friday, March 15 at Black Button Distilling in their new facility on University Avenue in Rochester.

Come on out for the evening and enjoy some camaraderie and conversation with fellow members. Food and drinks will be available. We'll also be conducting a canned food drive for United Way mixed in with a little competition - looking to see who can donate the most food (poundage wise) from counties that attend!

**Stay tuned for further details!**



### **President's Message Continued**

Farm Bureau may not win all its battles outright, and sometimes, compromises are necessary. One thing I can guarantee you is that our industry is always better off by having Farm Bureau advocating for us.

Much like our collective optimism for the new season, I look forward excitedly to the upcoming year for Wayne County Farm Bureau. Ours is a grassroots organization, driven and led by its members. I encourage all our members to get involved, reach out to our board members to introduce themselves, ask questions, and even consider serving on our board of directors in the future. Farm Bureau is a loud and trusted voice for our industry in a world full of much noise, and we need your voice to be part of our story. I wish you all much success in the coming season.

David Coene

President, Wayne County Farm Bureau

## 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](https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/2024%20New%20York%20Farm%20Bureau%20Agricultural%20Youth%20Scholarship)

### 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](http://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](mailto:proed@nyfb.org) or call 1-800-342-4143**

### WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS STATE ANNUAL MEETING

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

**Photo:** Wayne County Farm Bureau Delegates (l-r) Ken VanFleet, Matt Wunder, Gary Orbaker & Edith Skellie participating in the resolutions meeting at the New York Farm Bureau 2023 State Convention held Dec. 4-6 Tarrytown, NY.



### 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 Wayne County Farm Bureau member to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Wayne County agriculture.

The Taste NY Reception (March 4) will showcase products from around New York State and Wayne County will have a booth for displaying our great Wayne 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. Wayne 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 Amanda Krenning-Muoio or email [akrenning@nyfb.org](mailto:akrenning@nyfb.org).



**Photo (L-R)** Wayne County Farm Bureau members Gary Orbaker, Edith Skellie, David Coene and Philip Eygnor at the 2023 Taste of NY Reception held in Albany.





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

**Wayne County Farm Bureau**

**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.

### **WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT:** David Coene..... 585-746-2044

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Edith Skellie ..... 315-398-1564

Gary Orbaker. ....315-945-6311

John Sorbello. .... 315-730-2670

Matthew Wunder. .... 315-573-2908

James Williams. .... 585-770-8646

Steve Schreiber..... 585-303-8277

Mark Humbert ..... 315-651-8304

**YF&R Co-CHAIR:** Thomas Coene... 585-345-3018

**YF & R Co-CHAIR:** Emily Ooms ..... 518-929-3738

**PRO-ED CHAIR:** ..... Vacant

**NYFB STATE DIRECTOR:**

Kim Skellie.....315-879-0943

**COUNTY MANAGER:**

Amanda Krenning-Muoio .....585-504-8308

The Wayne County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County office in Newark.