

Yates County Farm Bureau

February 2024



President's Message



Dear Yates County Farm Bureau Member,

To begin with, I would like to thank the entire membership of the Yates County Farm Bureau for allowing me to serve this great organization! I consider this an honor, as well as a privilege to provide leadership

and vision to the Farm Bureau organization, and look forward to serving the entire agriculture community of Yates County.

The Yates County Farm Bureau is an organization which has demonstrated growth in membership and increased vitality of membership engagement. In fact, the Yates County Farm Bureau was presented with the highest award in New York State for membership excellence. This award is presented annually to the county Farm Bureau that ranks #1 in membership retention and recruiting. The Membership Excellence trophy sits in my personal office space, and I have the opportunity to look at it every day. Ultimately, the trophy should be on display in each one of your homes, because each and every member of the Yates County Farm Bureau helped to win this very prestigious award.

The members who have stepped up to serve on the board of directors and to guide this organization

are an amazing group of visionary leaders. As the presiding officer of your Farm Bureau, I am thrilled to be surrounded by enthusiastic leaders who are both committed to serving the most important and vibrant industry of our county – Agriculture. Please take a moment to learn about the dynamics of your Board members, and please be assured that this group of individuals are highly dedicated to protecting and improving Yates County Agriculture.

Agriculturists know the importance of people working together in order to overcome challenges and obstacles. Since 1914, members of Yates County Farm Bureau have proven that “together, we are more.” The challenges which the entire Agriculture industry of Yates County, New York State, and America will face in the future will increase in both intensity and occurrence.

On behalf of the entire Board, we ask that you not only renew your membership, but also engage your membership and take an active role in protecting and improving one of the premier agricultural epicenters in the World – Yates County.

Respectfully,

John Kriese

Yates County Farm Bureau President

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Each and every member is always welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings. Meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, and are held at the Penn Yan Elks Club on Main Street in Penn Yan. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 p.m. Come and obtain a the “behind the scenes” view as the board works through their committee frameworks, and how they create action plans to address any current and evolving agriculture issues. After the meetings, the Board loves to socialize and to talk about how we can protect and improve agriculture in Yates County. Our 2024 meeting schedule is:

- January 16, 2024
- February 20, 2024
- March 19, 2024
- April 16, 2024
- May 21, 2024
- June 18, 2024
- July 16, 2024
- August 25, 2024-Sunday
Annual Member Picnic &
“Tools of the Trade” Fundraiser
- September 17, 2024
- October 15, 2024 – Annual
Membership Meeting

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SET FOR 2024

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2024 legislative priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at the State Annual Meeting held in December. These priorities reflect the collective interest of our members and rural communities and will determine the focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead.

- 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.

HIGH YIELDS FOR YATES MEMBERSHIP!

Research has proven that organizations which offer both direct and indirect benefits to their members spend less time recruiting and more time being pro-active! The Yates County Farm Bureau Board has decided to implement this research and is proud to announce the "Yates Yielder" membership enhancement plan.

The "Yates Yielder" plan will provide exclusive, member-only discounts and financial incentives designed to strengthen and nurture business relations throughout Yates County and the Finger Lakes Region. Yates County Farm Bureau is currently working on creating a list of participating merchants and entrepreneurs who would like to be involved with our organization.

Are you a YCFB Member AND business owner? We really could use your help to make this program a great one! Would you be willing to offer a one-time cash discount to fellow members? How about providing a determined % discount for Farm Bureau members on a recurring basis? In exchange for your generosity, YCFB will help to promote your business to more than 275 Yates County Members! If you would like to be involved, please contact Chris Conley at 315-694-6632 or email christopher223.cc@gmail.com or by contacting Mark James at 585-738-0242.

Our goal is to have all "Yates Yielder" participants determined by February 15th! Farm Bureau members can expect to start harvesting county-level member savings and discounts no later than March 1st, 2024. Stay tuned!

MEET YOUR YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD MEMBERS

There's some new faces and fresh ideas that have just joined the Yates County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. We thought it would be nice to introduce ourselves so you could get a sense of where we come from, the skills we have and the passions we believe in. Feel free to reach out with any problems or concerns you might have, as you'll see we're eager to help and excited to serve and strengthen agriculture in Yates County!



JOHN KRIESE, PRESIDENT – John retired from his 33-year career of teaching agricultural education in 2018. He is the co-owner of Finger Lakes Cattle Company, which focuses on the development of data-driven beef cattle genetics. John represents the State of New York by serving on the National Beef Cattle Research and Promotion Board, is President of the NY Red Angus Association, and is a member of the Town of Jerusalem Planning Board. John became a member of the YCFB Board so that he could re-pay the organization for all of the help provided to advance agricultural education and the FFA organization in public schools. John believes that one of the biggest challenges facing the future of agriculture is the amount of food and environmental fear which is created by mainstream media. John can be reached at (315) 856-0234. His email is hereford@frontiernet.net



JASON HENDERSON, VICE PRESIDENT - Jason is in partnership with his family - owned Henderson Valley Farms. He is a 5th-generation agriculture producer which produces corn, wheat, soybeans and seed crops on more than 900 acres. He is also the owner of Lake-to-Lake Septic Services, which specializes in both residential and business pump-outs. Lake to Lake also provides portable toilets at events and worksites. Jason is a graduate of SUNY @ Cobleskill, and served the Penn Yan FFA Chapter as both President and Vice President. Jason became a YCFB Board member to “become more involved in what matters to my family as well as future generations of agriculturists.” Jason believes that the greatest challenges facing agriculture today include production costs, profitability, and sustaining agricultural soils and farmsteads for future generations. Jason can be reached at (315) 559-3440. His email is jhender87@gmail.com



RITCHIE LENT, TREASURER - Ritchie retired from Seedway in 2022 after serving over 40 years in the seed industry. Ritchie managed processing both the Hall and Mecklenburg seed plants. Ritchie also managed seed corn contracting with numerous producers through out the upper mid-west and was responsible for contracting over 5,000 acres of land used for seed production in NYS. Currently, he serves as a Council member on the Jerusalem Town Board. A long-time Board member of YCFB he has served as president, vice president and treasurer. He represented Seedway on the NY Seed Improvement Committee for more than 20 years. Ritchie served the Penn Yan FFA as President and Vice President, and also received his Empire Degree. Ritchie became an engaged Board member when there was much discussion about banning Roundup (Glyphosate) in New York State. He was instrumental having a resolution passed at the state Annual Meeting which supports the wise and safe use of this crop-producing aid. Ritchie believes that some of the biggest challenges facing agriculture is the lack of understanding of where food comes from, that farmers do care for their land, their livestock, and about the quality of food they produce. Ritchie can be reached at (315)-729-6229. His email is ralent2003@yahoo.com.

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MEET THE YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD CONTINUED...



AUSTIN FINGAR, SECRETARY - Austin graduated from Cornell University and is currently the Farm manager at Red Jacket Orchards in Geneva, NY. He is responsible for the management of 450 acres of fruit trees including apples, peaches, plums and cherries. He also manages and directs approximately 40 – 50 H2A workers, and is heavily involved in all management decisions including crop production compliance, food safety, DEC Regulations and application of crop protectant trainings. Austin is involved with his family grape farm on Bluff Point and also manages grapes of his own. He has recently built a new facility where he raises beef for direct sales to customers, and bales about 60 acres of hay per year. Austin became a Board member because he “enjoys tackling new challenges and working together to help the agricultural industry in today’s ever-changing world.” Austin is concerned about chemical build up in the environment and about run-off. He is also concerned that there are individuals and agencies who have the ability to create regulations and laws for agriculture, but yet these people do not have a deep understanding of proven and modern agricultural practices and methodologies. Austin can be reached at (315) 530-0934, and his email is arf68@cornell.edu



TRIANA BURGOS FARNAN, YOUNG FARMER & RANCHER CHAIR – Triana is currently attending Morrisville State College studying Agricultural Science with a concentration in Agricultural Education and Outreach. She grew up on her grandparents’ winery and vineyards working in both the vineyards and the winery. Triana has had the opportunity to work in the dairy industry as well working on campus dairy milking and feeding calves between classes. During her time in high school Triana was an active FFA member serving as chapter treasurer for three years then as the president her senior year. She also was selected as the State FFA District 8 President from 2019-2020 then as the State FFA Vice President from 2020-2021. Triana serves as the current president of both Morrisville College’s Farm Bureau/Collegiate FFA and Agricultural Engineering Club actively involved in working with her peers to promote agriculture on campus. She joined the board in hopes of continuing to better the agricultural community in the state and in her hometown. Triana believes that the greatest issues facing the future of agriculture will be the costs of production associated with changing technologies.

As the agricultural communities must solve issues of rising populations, climate discourse, environmental protection and stewardship, and urbanization, as well as continuing to produce consistent high-quality goods producers are forced to bear the weight of the increase in the price of production while the price of food will always be historically low. Triana can be reached at (315)536-2212. Her email is tri.burgosfarnan@gmail.com.



MIKE COLIZZI, PRO-ED CHAIR – Mike is the Sr. Grower Relations Representative for E&J Gallo Winery and is also the owner of Kashong Glen Vineyards. Mike’s responsibilities with Gallo include sourcing all the grapes that are brought into the Canandaigua Winery from New York State and Pennsylvania. He also handles the harvest logistics including scheduling of deliveries, field sampling and harvest decisions. When Mike is not working at his “day” job, you can find him in his personal vineyard. Season activities include canopy management, trellis repair, cultivation, spraying, mowing, cover crop management, sampling, and harvesting. Mike serves as Vice Chair of the board for the New York Wine and Grape Foundation and is the Chair of the Research Committee. For 10 years he has served as a board member for the New York State Wine Grape Growers. He is a class of 2016 graduate of the LEADNY program, which is a leadership development program specifically for those involved in Agriculture and Food Production. Mike wanted to become a Yates County Farm Bureau Board members to highlight and to preserve the history of agriculture in our county while

MEET THE YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD CONTINUED...

working to set future generations up for successful careers in agriculture. Given the diversity of Ag commodities produced within our county, he believes that we have a unique opportunity to step up and lead New York's agriculture future in the right direction. Mike also believes that one of the biggest challenges facing agriculture right now is that we have an extreme disconnect between agriculture and the general public. This is leading to fewer young people seeking jobs in agriculture. It also is resulting in policy changes being made by individuals who know very little to nothing about how these changes will affect the farmer. This puts the future of agriculture and all of our livelihoods at an extreme disadvantage. Another challenge facing agriculture is the loss of viable farm land. This can be to pressure from urban sprawl or loss of soil through erosion. We need to do what we can to protect our farmland while keeping it productive and healthy for generations to come.



ANDREW JENSEN, DIRECTOR is the owner of AJ Mowing and Snowplowing of Penn Yan. He is also employed by Crooked Vine Farms as a part-time vineyard technician. Andrew also manages his food service business, where he specializes in Barbeque Chicken for private events, benefits, and fundraisers. Andrew was a very active member of the Penn Yan FFA, and is currently a member of the YC Fair Board, the Penn Yan Fire Department, the Elks Club, the Moose Club, and the Seneca Lake Duck Hunters Club. Andrew became a Board member because of his strong passion of agriculture and the agricultural community. Andrew believes that the biggest challenge facing agriculture today is the extremely high demand for land, and being able to purchase land. Andrew is also concerned about affordable housing in the Finger Lakes Region. Andrew can be reached at (315) 277-0325. His email is ajmowing@yahoo.com.



PERRY LEWIS, DIRECTOR is employed by Lone Pine Farms, which is a vineyard operation owned by his parents, Harry and Penny Lewis. He also is involved with growing wheat and raises clover for seed. He is involved with all aspects of vineyard management, and is extensively involved with fixing and maintaining farm and vineyard equipment. Perry joined the YCFB Board so that he could be part of the agricultural voice for our community, and to help young people to bridge the gap between FFA and the Farm Bureau. Perry believes one of the biggest challenges facing agriculture is transportation regulations. He feels that the increased regulations have made it very difficult and expensive for producers to acquire and maintain their CDL Licenses. The increased regulations are also creating a shortage of drivers, which has increased the cost of shipping, which then causes negative economic pressure for agricultural producers. Perry can be reached at (315)- 694-6186. His email is perry.lewis@hotmail.com



JOLENE AND DANIEL VAUGHAN, DIRECTORS – After graduating from Marcus -Whitman Central Schools, the Vaughan siblings decided that they wanted to be part of the family dairy farm, which is Vaughan Farms LLC. Vaughan Farms is one of the biggest dairies in Yates County, where they milk approximately 500 cows per day. Jolene is involved with milking and serves as assistant herds person, and Daniel is involved with mechanics, maintenance, crop production, and harvesting. Both Jolene and Daniel were members of the Marcus Whitman FFA. Both Jolene and Daniel joined the Board so that they could become a voice for concerns and issues in agriculture. Both Jolene and Daniel are very concerned about the high costs of production, and express concerns about how the media can influence consumers to choose about lab-grown protein sources over farm-produced foods. Jolene can be reached at (315) 209-6825. Her email is jvaughan345@gmail.com. Daniel's number is (315) 694-2458, and his email is dcvaughan09@gmail.com.

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MEET THE YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD CONTINUED...



CHRISTOPHER CONLEY, DIRECTOR is employed by Dailey Electric Inc, and also works for Lake-to-Lake Septic, as well as Henderson Valley Farms. Chris performs a wide variety of electrical installations and service jobs. In addition, he operates a septic pump truck, and assists with mechanical maintenance at Henderson Valley. Chris was very active in the Penn Yan Chapter of FFA, and served as President from 2011-13. Chris decided to join YCFB and to become a Board member in order “to help provide the local community with accurate information about agriculture, and to help serve as a voice for agricultural issues. Chris believes that the biggest challenge facing agriculture is the constant need to help to educate and to inform non-ag citizens about agricultural production and science. Chris can be reached at (315) 694-6632. His email is christopher223.cc@gmail.com

TITO CHAVEZ, DIRECTOR has extensive experience in vineyard management, and is employed at the Anthony Road Wine Company as a winemaker. In addition, he is employed by Keuka Lake and Land Realty and is a real estate sales person. Tito was very active in the Penn Yan Chapter of FFSA, and served as Vice President. He currently serves on the research committee of the NY State Wine and Grape Foundation. Tito became a YCFB Board members due to his desire to be involved with promotion and advocacy of the Agriculture Industry. Tito believes that the biggest challenges facing agriculture is the need to help people to better understand the dynamics of the agricultural industry. Tito can be reached at (315) 719-8374. His email is tito.chavez24@gmail.com

BRAYDEN WEBBER, DIRECTOR is a professional auctioneer, and is the owner of BW’s Auction Company. In addition, he is involved with creating the online presence for H. Sensenig Auctions LLC. Brayden is also employed by Cinch Jeans, where he is extensively involved with clothing sales at large agricultural events such as rodeos and stock shows. Brayden was extensively involved with all components of the Penn Yan Chapter of FFA, is a PY FFA Alumni member, and belongs to the NY State Auctioneers Association as well as the National Auctioneers Association. Brayden chose to become a Board member to help connect with a younger generation and people without internet to Farm Bureau. Brayden believes that some of the biggest challenges facing agriculture today is the creation of connection between aging agriculturists and the younger generation. He also believes that there is a very strong need for agricultural advocacy and the need to provide education about agriculture to people who have never been exposed to the industry. Brayden can be reached at (315) 719-7515. His email is brayden_webber@yahoo.com

SAYRE FULKERSON, DIRECTOR Sayre and son Steven currently operate 100 acres of vineyard and winery in Dundee, Yates county. Sayre graduated from Cornell in 1975. He and wife Nancy started a grape juice business in 1979 and the winery in 1988. He is the sixth generation on the farm. He has a passion for making finger lakes wine an international attraction. The vineyard has become sustainable with a focus on soil conservation and a 90% reduction of fertilizer inputs. Sayre can be reached at 607-227-3237. His email is sayre@fulkersonwinery.com.



Photo: Yates County Farm Bureau was awarded the Membership Excellence Trophy at the County Annual Meeting held this past October. They were awarded the honor for being number 1 in membership retention and the first county in the state to get to membership goal. Standing from L-R: NYFB State Director, Kim Skellie; outgoing YCFB Farm Bureau President, Larry Lewis; NYFB Director County Farm Bureau Relations & Development, John Wagner and current YCFB President John Kriese.

JOHN KRIESE RECEIVES JAMES QUINN AWARD FROM NYS FARM BUREAU

Congratulations to John Kriese for being recognized with the James Quinn Award at this year's NYFB State Convention. The Yates County Farm Bureau president received the award which recognizes an individual for their membership and community involvement efforts. His tireless work this year included support for young people entering agriculture and promoting a safe rural roads campaign.

James Quinn was the President of the first Farm Bureau in the United States. NYFB created this award to honor his legacy. There are NYFB members out there that go above and beyond for Farm Bureau, and for the betterment of agriculture in general. These efforts too often go unacknowledged but are very much appreciated. This award gives County Farm Bureaus an opportunity to nominate fellow members for special recognition. This award was created to

recognize extraordinary effort by individual Farm Bureau members during the past year which advance NYFB's mission.



YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU 2023 ACTIVITY WRAP-UP

Membership Milestones

- Yates County Received the Silver Key Award (\$500) to be the first county in the State to make membership goal.
- Yates County Membership now exceeds 270 members which allows for an additional voting delegate!
- We have created a personalized Yates County Membership brochure. Reach out to any Board member if you are interested in using this as a tool to generate additional members

Share the Road Initiative

- Yates County created our own unique logo which has been shared for use among other counties
- We conducted a community forum with ~30 individuals in attendance with Sheriff Ron Spike to talk about Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) safety and how our community can increase safety and awareness.
- John Kriese and Larry Lewis were featured on "Open Microphone" with Lucas Day to share the story of SMVs and the Farm Bureau
- YCFB invested in over 100 yard signs to distribute across the community alerting motorists to be aware of SMV's.
- We invested more than \$600 for six (6) 4 x 8 signs that were placed around the county.

Tools of the Trade

- Members and community members came together

at Climbing Bines for another successful night of trivia. Over \$3,000 was raised for our Tools of the Trade Matching Grant.

- Yates County submitted the Tools, Trades & Trivia event into the American Farm Bureau's County Activities of Excellence. Over 150 applications were submitted. Although we were not recognized as a finalist our hard work did not go unnoticed. Special thanks to Trianna Burgos-Farnan for submitting a very high-quality application and for being involved at the National level.
- To date, almost \$5,000 has been awarded to young people involved in agriculture.

Educational Collaborations

- Yates County Farm Bureau Sponsored the Finger Lakes CDE Invitational FFA contests with several FFA Alumni and Farm Bureau members helping
- Provided funding for FFA career development events including Ag Mechanics, Veterinary Science, Floriculture, and Food Science
- We also funded the Penn Yan FFA Chapter FFA Jackets
- Agricultural Literacy Day Collaborations
- \$600 donation to the Yates County Fair
- Collaborative booth with the Penn Yan FFA at the Fair highlighting agriculture in the County. Distributed Farm Bureau applications and commodity cards
- \$550 donation to CCE Yates to help offset the Legislative tour cost



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

Yates County Farm Bureau



*Must be a New York Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Proof of membership is required. A valid member email address is required for eligibility. Discounts are subject to change without notice. Check out the savings on the following equipment categories; commerial mowing, residential mowing, utility vehicles, tractors, and compact construction. <https://www.deere.com/en/rewards/equipment-discounts/>

**YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- PRESIDENT** John Kriese..... 315-856-0234
- VICE PRESIDENT** Jason Henderson 315-559-3440
- TREASURER** Ritchie Lent..... 315-729-6229
- SECRETARY** Austin Fingar..... 315-530-0934
- DIRECTORS**
- Tito Chavez..... 315-719-8374
- Chris Conley 315-694-6632
- Sayre Fulkerson 607-227-3237
- Andrew Jensen..... 315-277-0325
- Perry Lewis..... 315-694-6186
- Daniel Vaughan 315-694-2458
- Jolene Vaughan..... 315-209-6825
- Brayden Webber 315-719-7515
- YF&R CHAIR** Triana Burgos-Farnan. 315-536-2212
- PRO-ED CHAIR** Michael Colizzi 315-374-4484
- COUNTY MANAGER** Mark James 585-738-0242
- CNY OFFICE** Jill Williamson 518-431-5670

Yates County Farm Bureau board meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Penn Yan Elks Club on Main Street in Penn Yan.