

# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

March 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

## President's Message



Spring will be here before we know it as planting season will get underway. But first, we have another important season to cultivate, New York State budget season.

Lawmakers are currently negotiating the spending plan for the next fiscal year, and this includes critical funding for agriculture. There is more

than \$160 million earmarked for animal health and environmental programs, promotion of farm products, and research support among other needed funding.

Our county Farm Bureau plans to be in Albany for the annual New York Farm Bureau Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day. This is essential to the work of our organization. We meet with our local Senators and Assembly Members along with adopted lawmakers from New York City. This is our opportunity to advocate for the budget and discuss the impacts of other proposed legislation that we either support or oppose.

Some of the other priorities this session includes full funding for Nourish New York and the Healthy School

Meals for All programs to increase access to locally produced food. NYFB is also prioritizing legislation allowing for direct-to-consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and spirits.

Farm Bureau also has serious concerns about the statewide push for electrification before farms can successfully adopt it or the rural power grid can properly handle the expected surge in use. The state cannot afford to go too far, too fast. We also are pushing back on plans to shift recycling costs onto the backs of producers that include dairy processors and wine makers. For a full look at the state priority issues, you can click under legislative affairs on the New York Farm Bureau website at [nyfb.org](http://nyfb.org).

I would encourage you to make your voice heard as well on these issues, by sending an e-lobby message through the website or by participating in the monthly calls to action that come through your email. It takes all of us getting involved to make things happen.

I wish all of you a good spring season, and may this year be fruitful for us all.

*Kyle Hafemann*

Jefferson County Farm Bureau President

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## NOTED VIRGINIA TECH PROFESSOR AND NORTH COUNTRY NATIVE, DR. DAVID KOHL, TO DISCUSS FUTURE - PROOFING YOUR FARM OR BUSINESS



Resiliency, nimbleness, and agility are key elements in future – proofing your business and life according to the Jefferson County native. He graduated from the Belleville Henderson FFA program, then attended Jefferson Community College (JCC) before going on to achieve international recognition

as Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship

at Virginia Tech. Jefferson County native Dr. David Kohl will be the featured guest at a forum planned for Thursday March 28, 2024 starting at 6pm on the JCC campus. Learn more and register for the free program by going to [www.agricultureevents.com](http://www.agricultureevents.com) or calling 315-782-5865 x 232. The free program is provided by Jefferson County Economic Development.

Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Finance and Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, will share

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## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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.

### NEW YORK STATE Maple Weekend

Jefferson County Maple Producers

March 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

Champion Peak Maple  
33871 County Rd. 163,  
Copenhagen, NY 13626  
Phone: 512-745-9072  
Open: Both Weekends

Maplewood Sweets LLC  
20322 County Rd. 63,  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Phone: 315-222-6796  
Open: Both Weekends

Massey Ranch  
20605 Combs Rd.,  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Phone: 315-783-5939  
Open: Both Weekends

Steiner's Running Wild  
Burrville Cider Mill  
18232 County Route 156,  
Watertown, NY 13601  
Phone: 315-788-7292  
Open: Both Weekends



## JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception was held on March 4 & 5 in Albany with Jefferson members in attendance. The Taste of NY Reception (March 4) showcased products from around New York State. Lobby Day (March 5) was an opportunity for members to meet with and give a rural production perspective to elected legislators. Jefferson County Farm Bureau also meet with urban "Adopted Legislators." For some of these legislators, it may have been the first contact with an agricultural producer.

**Photo RIGHT:** Governor Hochul and Commissioner of Ag Richard Ball visit the Jefferson County Farm Bureau booth at the Taste of NY Reception. Discussing Jefferson County agriculture with them is Mike Kiechle, Jefferson County Farm Bureau member.



**Photo Left (l-r):** Assembly member Will Barclay, Jefferson County Farm Bureau members Jake LeDoux & Devon Shelmidine, Assembly member Scott Gray and Assembly member Ken Blankenbush at the Taste of NY Reception. All three assemblyman, along with Senator Mark Walczyk received a Friend of Farm Bureau Award. This award is given once during each Congress to those members who have supported Farm Bureau policy as shown by their voting records or other actions.

### *Future - Proofing Your Farm or Business Continued*

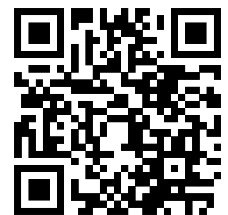
his geopolitical insights into the challenges facing our globe. Workforce reductions are causing businesses to rethink strategies for success. Domestic and international policies are changing how we do business at every level. Even the prospect of maintaining a local food supply has grown in importance. Join Dr. Kohl in a discussion about how to focus on resiliency, nimbleness, and agility as key elements in future-proofing your business and life. One hour can change a lifetime.

Dr. Kohl received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from Cornell University. Kohl has traveled over 10 million miles throughout his career providing more than 7,000 seminars and 500 webinars. Dr. Kohl has appeared in front of bankers, government agencies, regulators, businesses, and farm groups. He has published five books and authored over 2,500 articles and video blogs on financial and business-related topics. Dr. Kohl is a visionary speaker who provides great information in a passionate and fun

style. He is the type of speaker that you'll attend his session, just because you've heard him speak before.

It is important to register in advance by going to the [www.agricultureevents.com](http://www.agricultureevents.com) website. The program begins at 6pm with a reception in the Jules Center in front of the amphitheater room 6-002. Dr. Kohl begins at 7pm and then after his presentation there will be a meet and greet with Dr. Kohl.

Jefferson County Economic Development is providing this free program for anyone interested in learning about the future of business and farming. The event is hosted by Jefferson Community College. "Community Leadership" level sponsors Cazenovia Equipment Company, Midway International Logistics and Jefferson County Public Health Services are assisting in bringing Dr. Kohl back to Jefferson County. Call 315-782-5865 x 232 with questions.





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

Jefferson County Farm Bureau

This issue of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau  
Newsletter sponsored by:

A photograph of a red barn with a white roof, situated in a green field with a line of trees in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

  
**AGROLIQUID**

**Hickory Liquid**  
Lets Make it Grow

**Luke Hall**                      **Owner**

**Hickoryliquid@outlook.com**      **13916 CO RT 5**  
**315-921-7462**                      **Clayton NY 13624**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**COUNTY MANAGER:** John Wagner...315-761-9770  
**NYFB COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES:**  
Jill Williamson.....518-431-5670  
Felicia Dougherty .....518-431-5650

Jefferson County Farm Bureau meets on the  
first Wednesday of each month (except June and  
December) at Cazenovia Equipment in Watertown.