

Livingston County Farm Bureau

March 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message



Hello, my name is Jack Klapper and I am honored to be the new Livingston County Farm Bureau president. I am a dairy farmer and co-owner of Noblehurst Farms which is located in Linwood. My main responsibility at the farm is managing the dairy herd. I have served on the Livingston County Farm Bureau board for six years and served as the vice president last year. In my free time I enjoy coaching basketball at SUNY Geneseo.

I am excited to work with our board, our area farms, community members, and politicians to ensure that Livingston County's strong agricultural roots continue to thrive here in the county as well as the state. Protecting farms and ensuring their viability is something that our board and I are working on very diligently. Being a part of Farm Bureau helps give us

all a voice to help protect our rural communities.

We wrapped up our state annual meeting in December. I and two other board members traveled to Tarrytown in Westchester county to attend this meeting. We discussed and put together policies that will drive our organization throughout the year and get these policies in front of politicians in Albany so that they can hear our voice and needs. I and two other board members traveled out to Albany for our annual Lobby Days. While in Albany we met with a variety of politicians from across the state trying to push our agenda and protect New York farms and rural communities.

I encourage anyone to attend one of our Farm Bureau meetings to see what our board has been working on. Always feel free to reach out to me or any other board member if you have any questions or concerns.

I would like to thank everyone for their trust in me to help lead this great organization and continue the success that Livingston County Farm Bureau has had.

Jack F. Klapper

Livingston County Farm Bureau President
jklapper@linwoodag.com



Livingston County Farm Bureau Scholarship Program

Livingston County Farm Bureau, in partnership with the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, will award a scholarship to a graduating senior who is pursuing study in agriculture or a closely related field.

This award will be paid to the student by August 15th. The scholarship decision will be based on the applicant's scholastic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, relationship to agriculture, and a short essay on career goals and interests.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- Reside in Livingston County
- Be the son or daughter of a Livingston County Farm Bureau member
OR be a Livingston County Farm Bureau student member
- Be pursuing study in agriculture or a closely related field

For an application, or to submit a completed application:

Email: jwillamson@nyfb.org
Mail: Livingston County Farm Bureau
C/O New York Farm Bureau Support Office
PO Box 367 Marietta, NY 13110

Application Deadline April 30th

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.

FARMWORKER OVERTIME TAX CREDIT PORTAL NOW OPEN

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced the launch of the State's new Farm Employer Overtime Credit advance portal, which is now open for farmers to register and begin preparing the documents they will need to apply for reimbursement. Later this year, eligible farm employers may apply to the Department of Agriculture and Markets for a certificate of advance payment of eligible overtime paid to their employees between January 1 and July 31, 2024.

The Farm Employer Overtime Credit is a refundable tax credit available for eligible farm employers who pay overtime wages after January 1, 2024, based on the gradual phase-in of the overtime threshold in New York State.

Farm employers are encouraged to prepare to apply this year by taking the following steps:

- Ensuring that they are registered for a [NY.gov ID through My.NY.gov](https://www.ny.gov).
- Taking the [farm employer eligibility assessment](#)
- Discussing the program with their tax and payroll advisors to ensure they are keeping necessary records during the January 1 – July 31 period this year.
- Registering their farm in the online portal now if they plan to apply for the advance payment in 2024. The application portal can be accessed by visiting taxcredit.agriculture.ny.gov.
- Optionally, choosing to delegate authority to a representative (e.g., a tax preparer), who may complete and submit the application on the farm employer's behalf later in the year.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception were held on March 4 & 5 in Albany with Livingston 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. Livingston 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 Top Right: Livingston County Farm Bureau members, Jack Klapper, Gus Swyers & Steve Schiano, along with members of Monroe County Farm Bureau met with Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes during New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day held March 5 in Albany NY.

Photo Bottom Right: Senator Pam Helming took the time to meet with County Farm Bureau members during New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day to discuss NYFB 2024 Legislative Priority Issues.



LIVINGSTON COUNTY CELEBRATES AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK



Each year in March, a Celebration of Agriculture is brought into classrooms throughout New York State with Agricultural Literacy Week. Agricultural Literacy Week, designated as March 18 thru 22 this year, helps children kindergarten through third grade have an awareness of where their food comes from by introducing them to a

pre-selected agriculture themed book that is read to classrooms.

Livingston County school children are having the celebration brought to them this year with volunteers helping to introduce them to the importance of agriculture by reading this year's book titled I Love Strawberries! Written by Shannon Anderson with artwork by Jaclyn Sinquett. The book features Jolie and her love of strawberries. Jolie is on an unstoppable mission to grow her own food from seedling to table in this colorful introduction to the joy of growing the popular perennial.

Livingston County Farm Bureau is pleased to be able to purchase books that will be read to our local students. The books are then distributed throughout classrooms and school libraries so that all children in the county can continue to experience and join in Jolie's mission to grow her own strawberries.

FARM BUREAU PRESENTS

REGIONAL YFR FOOD DRIVE & TRIVIA

Join us for a food drive party. Bring canned goods and \$20 for a drink ticket, food and trivia!

MARCH 15
6:30-9PM

BLACK BUTTON DISTILLERY
1344 University Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607

Please register at the link or QR code:



New York Farm Bureau
 159 Wolf Road, Suite 300
 Albany, NY 12205
Livingston 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; commercial mowing, residential mowing, utility vehicles, tractors, and compact construction. <https://www.deere.com/en/rewards/equipment-discounts/>

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- PRESIDENT** Jack Klapper 585-813-4925
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- Augustus Swyers, **YF&R CHAIR** 585-447-0093
- DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR** Brad Macauley 716-704-1506
- COUNTY MANAGER** Amanda Krenning-Muoio 585-504-8308

Our Board of Directors usually meets on the first Monday of the month (except April, May and December) at Linwood Turf, Linwood, NY.