

# Lewis County Farm Bureau News

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 was 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 met 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.

*Joe Shultz*

Lewis County Farm Bureau Board President

### 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LEWIS COUNTY AG TRIVIA CHALLENGE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> @ 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 20<sup>th</sup>):**

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

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

## 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

#### Lewis County Maple Producers

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

Moser's Maple LLC  
9605 Croghan Reservoir Rd.,  
Croghan, NY 13327  
Phone: 315-486-7933  
Open: Both Weekends

Pierce's Sugar Spigot  
11603 State Hwy 812,  
Croghan, NY 13327  
Phone: 315-286-7999  
Open: Both Weekends

Silver Sap Maple  
8720 Mattis Rd.,  
Lowville, NY 13367  
Phone: 315-221-0510  
Open: March 16<sup>th</sup> only

Snyder's Sugar Shack  
9640 Number Three Rd.,  
Copenhagen, NY 13626  
Phone: 315-486-9634  
Open: Both Weekends

Sterling Valley Maple  
9610 Croghan Reservoir Rd.,  
Croghan, NY 13327  
Phone: 315-523-5916  
Open: March 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

Yancey's Sugarbush  
7981 Long Pond Rd.,  
Croghan, NY 13327  
Phone: 315-346-6356  
Open: Both Weekends

International Maple Museum  
9756 State Route 812, Croghan, NY 13327  
Phone: 315-346-1107  
7 a.m. to 11 a.m. for Breakfast Menu includes:  
Pancakes, Sausage, Maple Syrup, Applesauce, Juice, Milk,  
Coffee, Maple Coffee, and Tea  
Price: Adults: \$12, Children 5-12: \$7, Children under 5: Free  
Have a delicious pancake breakfast,  
then tour the exhibits in the museum!

## LEWIS 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

**Lewis** County school children will have 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.

Through Jolie's comical scrapbook-style journal entries, young readers will learn how she convinces the "old people" (aka her parents) to let her grow her own strawberries.

Growing strawberries is a lot of work and responsibility, but Jolie is ready with the help of her faithful rabbit Munchy! Together they find out just how delicious, rewarding, and sometimes complicated it can be to grow your own food.

Lewis County Farm Bureau is pleased to be able to purchase books that will be read to our local students. The books were 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.



### CONGRATULATIONS HAROLD HAMMOND

Harold Hammond, left, was the winner of our 2024 Lewis County Farm Bureau Membership Renewal Contest. Harold was awarded a \$110 check by Lewis County Farm Bureau President, Joe Shultz. All Farm Bureau members who renewed their 2024 membership by Jan. 1 were eligible to win.

## LEWIS 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 Lewis 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.

**Photo:** At the New York Farm Bureau Taste of NY Reception, Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County Executive Director Michelle LeDoux(l), NYFB Staff John Wagner(2nd from left), and Cornell Cooperative Extension Lewis County Ag Educator Melissa Spence (r) pose with State Senator Joe Griffo (c).





New York Farm Bureau  
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Lewis County Farm Bureau



### A MESSAGE FROM NY FARMNET

March has arrived and the seasons are starting to change. It's a time when farmers all across the state are gearing up for the year ahead. With so much planning underway, problems, questions, stress, and even opportunities are popping up everywhere.

We would like to take this moment to remind everyone that we are a free, confidential service available to all farmers in NYS. Most of our clients are referred to us by others and we assist with all kinds of issues. Whether you or someone you know has problems, questions, or just needs an extra pair of eyes on something - please give us a call!

For free support 24/7, NY FarmNet can be contacted at 1-800-547-3276 or by email at [nyfarmnet@cornell.edu](mailto:nyfarmnet@cornell.edu). You can also visit our website at [NYFARMNET.org](http://NYFARMNET.org) and submit a request for services by filling out a simple electronic form.



### 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 YANCEY.....315-346-6356

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

JEN KARELUS .....315-486-8820

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

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

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

#### **NYFB County Support Offices:**

Jill Williamson .....518-431-5670

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

Lewis County Farm Bureau meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Lowville.