



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 17, Issue 2

March/April 2024

6th Annual Ag Trivia Night- April 13th

Spring has sprung and the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau is once again proud to announce the return of Ag Trivia Night! We wish to invite you and your friends to this fun 21 and over event. Pizza, snacks, and desserts are provided as well as a small sampling of local wine and beer. Please bring your own favorite beverages as well. In addition to the trivia contest there will also be a Chinese auction.

All proceeds from Ag Trivia Night go towards the Cattaraugus County FB's scholarship fund. Last year in addition to giving a scholarship to a graduating senior and a small stipend to our 2nd place winner, we also gave money to several 4-Hers for start up projects and to several FFA students to attend the FFA National Convention.

Sponsors are still needed, so if you have a business (or know of one that would be interested) that would like to make a monetary donation or a donation to the Chinese auction, please contact Michael at the number below.

To sign up a team, please return the slip below by **April 1st** so that we can plan for the correct number of people. You can send your money in now or pay at the door. You can also call or email to sign up if you prefer. We will once again be offering a \$5 discount for those that bring a bag of canned goods to donate to the local food pantry.

So get busy calling friends and family to put together the winning team for Ag Trivia Night 2024!

**Doors Open at 6:30 pm
Trivia Starts at 7:30 pm**

**Ellicottville Town Center Building
28 Parkside Dr
Ellicottville, NY**

**Team Trivia, Chinese Auction, Pizza,
Wings, Snacks, Desserts**

**\$15 per person for Dinner and Team
Registration**

**(\$5 off for each person that brings a bag of
canned goods to donate to the food pantry)**

Teams of 4 people 21 and over

*A small sampling of wine and beer will be
available- please bring your own favorite
beverages as well.*

**All proceeds raised will be used to help fund
local FFA students, 4-Hers, and The
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau College
Scholarship**

Team Name: _____

Participants:

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Team Contact email: _____

Please make checks payable to *Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau*

Mail completed registration form and fee to:
*Michael Telaak
7301 Hinman Hollow Rd
Little Valley, NY 14755*

For more information contact
Michael Telaak at 716-969-7676
or email at mdtelaak@yahoo.com



A Fireside Chat with the County President

Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

With this new year and the new year's spring planting almost upon us, it's a good time for us all to ask ourselves why. The why, in this case, is why Farm Bureau. Why are we a part of this organization, why do we take the time to pay our dues, read the newsletters, or go to community events like the Annual Farm Bureau picnic or (one of mine and my wife's personal favorites) Ag Trivia night? Why do any of this?

When I ask myself this question, my brain thinks both big picture and small. Big, being that the USA is a Democratic Republic in which the people elect representatives, and these representatives decide that laws that govern the land, the land we work and live on. But, how do these representatives know how different proposed laws will affect, in our case, Agriculture and the many forms of Agriculture that fall under that umbrella. Lobbyists, while sometimes being thought of in negative forms, are how every interest from every type of group goes about informing lawmakers on how different laws will affect the group they are lobbying for. Farm Bureau does more than just lobby; it is a big part of how we speak and stand up for all forms of Agriculture. It provides a unified voice for over 4.5 million members nationwide. Though that seems like a lot, Farm Bureau is also a grassroots organization going from National, to State, to County, to the individual member.

Going back now, the small *why*, is the community that is fostered by being a part of Agriculture. Farm Bureau brings us all together. It fosters different friendships and experiences, opportunities to learn how different forms of Agriculture work. I would encourage all our members to think of their *why* as most of us hit our busiest season. Spread the word to some fellow Ag people in your area that aren't already part of Farm Bureau, with the goal of making the whole organization stronger, gaining more voices. Encourage them, as well as maybe your own families, to come out for some of our own Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau events and become more active in this great community.

Can't wait to see everyone there.

Sincerely,

Michael Telaak

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Life is stressful- and farming can often pile on the stress even more. FarmNet can your help your farm in several ways, but did you know well-being counseling was one of them? Contact them at 1-800-547-FARM (3276).

Your Farm Bureau

2024 Directors- Serving our county with pride!

President-Michael Telaak..... 716-969-7676.....Dairy
 Vice Pres.- Dave Zilker.....716-474-5859.Rural Landowner
 Treasurer- Carmen Wright.....716-676-2556.....Dairy/Maple
 Secretary- Margie Andrews.....716-358-2280.....Dairy
 Kevin Herman.....716-397-9183.....Dairy
 Tom Graser.....716-353-5924.....Dairy
 Don Wild.....716-969-4386.....Livestock
 Katie Hill (Pro-Ed Chair).....716-801-0796.....Dairy
 Nathan Blesy.....716-435-7474.....Dairy
 Mark Hansen.....716-474-6774.....Dairy
 Bruce Rossette..... 716-244-3118.....Alpaca
 AmyJo Burroughs.....716-392-3623.....Equine
 Paige Williams-YFR chair.....716-353-5002.....Crops
 NY Farm Bureau Field Staff: Tim Bigham.....716-474-6585
 NY State Board Member: Lavern Warriner.....607-426-0521
 Nationwide Insurance Rep: Christy Lincoln.....716-713-4848

MEMBER BUSINESS SOLUTIONS **JOHN DEERE**

**Unlock BIG SAVINGS
with John Deere**

*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/>

What's BUGGING you? It's never too early to start thinking about resolutions! Is there some law or regulation you'd like to see changed? Have an idea for something that you'd like Farm Bureau to support or oppose? Contact Dave Zilker at 716-474-5859 to talk about it!

Visit the NYFB website for more information:

www.NYFB.org

“Like” the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Facebook Page for local updates



Newsletter Questions/Comments? Contact the editor, Barb Blesy at n.blesy@gmail.com or 716-435-5400

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!



FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 8TH; 7:30PM
PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER
28 PARKSIDE DR
ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month (except May & August). All members are welcome. We would love to hear your input!



AG TRIVIA NIGHT

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER
28 PARKSIDE DR
ELLICOTTVILLE, NY
TIME: DOORS OPEN @ 6:30
TRIVIA STARTS @ 7:30

Start planning your teams now! Do you have a business interested in being a sponsor or donating an item for the Chinese Auction? Contact Michael Telaak at 716-969-7676



Attention 4-Hers and FFA Students



Do you know of a 4-Her starting a new animal project or 4-H or FFA students going on a trip that would like a little financial boost? We want to help offset their costs! All ages are encouraged to apply!

The application requires your basic information, plus whatever farm/ agricultural experience you have and a 300-500 word essay. The essay must include what you want to use the money for, what you expect to gain from the experience, who sponsors the trip or activity, and what your total cost is for the trip or activity. In addition, you will need to include your involvement in agricultural, school, and community activities. You must have a Family or Student Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Membership or be sponsored by a Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau member. All 4-Hers and FFA students are welcome to apply.

The application can be obtained by emailing a request to n.bleesy@gmail.com or on the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau webpage located at nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/cattaraugus-county.

Done Reading This? When you're done with your newsletter please pass it on to someone you think should belong to Farm Bureau. We'd love the opportunity to reach one more person that could benefit from a Farm Bureau membership!

www.nyfb.org

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!

Include Farm Worker Housing Construction in Farm Refundable Investment Tax Credit

Tell legislators to include Farmworker housing construction and renovations in the Farm Refundable tax credit.

Continue to Support Critical Agricultural Funding in the State Budget

Tell the governor and legislators to include critical funding for agricultural education, promotion, research, and livestock health in the final 2024-2025 NYS budget.

E-Lobby Today!

Go to NYFB.org to E-Lobby on these hot issues (and others) you feel strongly about! Lobby with the click of a button!

Want to contact your legislators directly?

Catt County Legislature:

Cattco.org/government/legislators

Joseph M Giglio, Dist 148

giglioj@nyassembly.gov

700 W State St
Olean, NY 14760
716-373-7103
Fax: 716-373-7105

LOB 525
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5241
Fax: 518-455-5869

Senator George M Borrello

borrello@nysenate.gov

2-6 E Second St
Fenton Building Suite 302
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-664-4603
Fax: 716-664-2430

188 State St
LOB room 406
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-3563
Fax: 518-426-6905

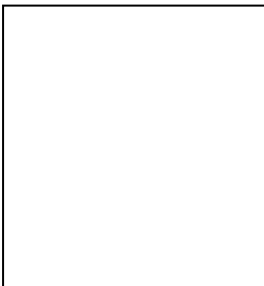
Why YFR?

The Young Farmer and Rancher Program in Cattaraugus County is largely a social program, offering young people the opportunity to get together and have some fun while networking with other young agriculturalists. In addition to the purely social aspect, the YFRs have opportunities to participate in several learning and leadership trainings throughout the state. YFRs also are eligible to participate in state and national competitions if they so choose. Get on the list to be notified about our next event! Call or text Paige Williams at 716-353-5002 or email paigewilliams166@gmail.com.

Lobby Days 2024

This year's Lobby Days once again saw agriculturalists from all over the state descending on Albany for the Taste of NY reception, followed by a day of visiting legislators to tell them what farming is about and what we need from them to maintain our food, fiber, and fuel supply.

The hot topics to discuss with the legislators this year were maintaining funding for agricultural programs in the NYS budget; allowing direct to consumer shipping for all NY produced farm beverages; and asking legislators to find an alternative to the Extended Producer Responsibility Act, which would put the cost of recycling containers on the producer of the containers, rather than the consumer.



Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
Michael Telaak- President
7301 Hinman Hollow Rd
Little Valley, NY 14755