

St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau News

April 2024



President's Message

Fellow St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau members, 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 recently went to 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.

Cont'd on the back:

Young Farmers

St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau hosted a young farmer gathering in March at Gilbert's Sugar Shack in Potsdam. Young Farmer Chair Elizabeth Maslyn notes that we had about 30 young farmers in attendance. It was great to get to know so many farmers in the county!

The mission of the Young Farmers events are to get young people in agriculture together to network and get to know farmers and ag businesses in the county.



Upcoming Young Farmer Events

Looking for information on young farmer events, reach out to Elizabeth Maslyn (585-784-0510) or email: elizabeth@mapleviewdairy.com

You can follow the young farmers on their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/795101380592395/>



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Taste of NY & Lobby Days



Nataly Batiston/NYFB Staff

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception was held on March 4 & 5 in Albany. Top Photo: Along with our fellow Clinton & Washington County Farm Bureau members we met with Sen. Dan Stec. The Taste of NY Reception showcased products from around New York State. Middle Photo: Lobby Day is the opportunity where we can acquaint ourselves with the Legislators and vice versa. It also gives us a chance for each of us to share what issues we are working on.



Young Farmers gathering at Sugar Snack in Potsdam.

Patty Gilbert/St. Law CFB Bd Member

Lobby Day “Hot” Topics

Below are some of the items that were discussed at this year’s lobby days.

Equine Industry Issue

Request that the One-House Budgets include additional funding and tax opportunities for the equine industry.

Xylazine: Part U of the Health and Mental Hygiene section of the executive budget proposal commonly used for sedation for a variety of procedures in both cattle and horses, including prior to administering euthanasia, to calm the animal and make it easier to perform the procedure, leg or hoof injuries, and handling horses or cattle in times of emergency. There are currently no practical alternatives for sedation in cattle and limited and less effective alternatives for horses that are more costly.

Add Farm Housing Construction in Renewable ITC

A renewable investment tax credit (ITC) for

agriculture was included in the final FY 23-24 State budget. Making farmworker housing eligible for the refundable ITC is the right thing to do for farmworkers and farmers.

CDL Bills

A new bill to direct the DOT to institute a program to reduce time spent at multiple DOT checkpoints. Bill to grant farm owners and employees an exemption from CDL requirements when hauling farm equipment or produce within 150 miles of a farm.

Direct to Consumer Shipping (DTC)

This proposal would allow craft beverage producers to ship their product directly to consumers. This would allow New York craft beverage producers to expand their markets and potentially make up revenue that was lost during the pandemic.

Looking For Volunteers!

LÔÔK

Join St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau in supporting the annual Dairy Princess Parade in June, located in Canton.

St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau will be making a float for the parade. Reach out to Farm Bureau President Nick Gilbert (315-244-6505) if you can help with the float!



AG BUSINESS SERIES

We're partnering with experts from Farm Credit East for a three-part Ag Business series. Choose the session that best fits your business needs, or sign up for all three! Lunch will be provided at each session.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
April 24th, 10-2:30 pm

ACCOUNTING
May 22nd, 10-2:30 pm

➔ [Register here: bit.ly/487ig0x](https://bit.ly/487ig0x)

Cornell Cooperative Extension
St. Lawrence County

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events.



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New York Farm Bureau
159 Wolf Road, Suite 300
Albany, NY 12205
St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau



President's Message: Cont'd:

This was 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. 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.

Nicholas Gilbert

President

**St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors~Dial 315 first.**

Nick Gilbert, President	244-6505
Brent Phillips	276-1045
Patty Gilbert, Treasurer	607-373-9720
Peter Smith	267-1855
Eric Burkum	244-1552
Jacob Fisher	261-8235
Mollie Curtis	854-5832
James Teriele	767-6873
Ted Greenwood	854-2310
Betsy Hodge	244-4298
Elizabeth Maslyn, YFR Chair	585-784-0510
Patti Fisher, ProEd Chair	261-8232
Natally Batison County Manager	518-937-0269
NYFB County Support Office	518-431-5650