

# Monroe County Farm Bureau

April 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 traveled 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. 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.

*Marilyn De Meyer*

Monroe County Farm Bureau President

### A MESSAGE FROM NY FARMNET

Spring has arrived, at least on the calendar, 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.



## 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.

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## MONROE 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

**Monroe** 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.

Monroe County Farm Bureau is pleased to be able to purchase the books that will be read to our local students. Fifty books were purchased this year for Ag Literacy Week and 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.



## MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS LOBBY DAY AND TASTE NY RECEPTION

Monroe County Farm Bureau members attended New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception on March 4 & 5 in Albany. 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. Monroe County Farm Bureau members had appointments with representatives throughout the day to discuss New York Farm Bureau's 2024 Legislative Priorities.

**Photo Right:** Farm Bureau members meeting with Assembly woman Marjorie Byrnes (3rd from left) during NYFB Lobby Day.

**Photo Bottom Right:** Assembly member Josh Jensen (c) took the time to meet with Monroe County Farm Bureau members during New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day.

**Photo Below:** Senator Pamela Helming and members of the Monroe, Ontario, Livingston & Wayne County Farm Bureau's got right down to business discussing the Legislative Priorities of 2024 for New York Farm Bureau.



## MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Monroe County Farm Bureau is once again offering scholarships to a graduating High School senior or current College student, up to age 24, pursuing an A.S., B.S., Master's Degree or PhD in an Agriculture related field of study. First place winner will receive \$1,000, with second place winner, if there are more than one application in a year, receiving \$500.

Students applying must have a current family Farm Bureau membership or a student membership.

Students will be required to submit an application, an essay as described on the application, as well as, two references not related to applicant. **Applications are available at:** [www.nyfb.org/About/County-Farm-Bureau/Monroe-County](http://www.nyfb.org/About/County-Farm-Bureau/Monroe-County).

Completed application and essay can be mailed, postmarked no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, to:

Monroe County FB Scholarship Committee  
c/o NYFB County Support Office  
P.O. Box 367  
Marietta, NY 13110

Application and essay can be emailed by July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, to: [jwilliamson@nyfb.org](mailto:jwilliamson@nyfb.org).

The winning Monroe County Farm Bureau scholarship recipient will be selected by our Scholarship Committee, with decisions made by August 15<sup>th</sup>.





New York Farm Bureau  
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**Monroe County Farm Bureau**

### TASTE OF MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County Farm Bureau hosted their annual Taste of Monroe County reception for the Monroe County Legislature on February 13. The event was well attended and is always a great opportunity for Monroe County Farm Bureau to educate their local legislators about the importance of agriculture to the Monroe County economy.



### MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Monroe County Farm Bureau meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Monroe Cty. Public Safety Building.