

# Madison County Farm Bureau News

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 meet 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.

Greg Coon, President

Madison County Farm Bureau

### 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.



## MADISON 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

**Madison** County school children have had 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.

Madison County Farm Bureau was pleased to be able to purchase books that were 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.



**Photo:** Hamilton Central School Pre-K Class discovering the joy of growing your own food as they are read the book I Love Strawberries. Reading to the class is Hamilton Central FFA President Stephanie Bernard.



**Photo:** Morrisville Eaton Students completed a companion project after being read the 2024 Ag Literacy Book, I Love Strawberries. Morrisville Eaton FFA members Addison Shantal and Molly Orth read the book to the class and helped with the project.

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## 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](https://www.ny.gov) through [My.NY.gov](https://my.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](https://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.

## MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU AT NYFB'S TASTE OF NY & LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception was held on March 4 & 5 in Albany with Jefferson 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 Top Right:** Governor Hochul toured the Taste of NY Reception and stopped for a selfie with Wayne County Farm Bureau and Cobleskill Collegiate member Tyler Bartlow (l) along with Kyle Hale, Madison County Farm Bureau member (c). In the background is County Manager John Wagner.



**Photo Center Right:** Madison County Farm Bureau member Adam Carvell of Old Home Distillers at the Taste of NY Reception.



**Photo Bottom Right:** Monica Cody (l), Madison County Farm Bureau member at her Taste of NY table for Farmstead 1868 along with Senator Rachel May (r).

**Photo Bottom Left:** Madison County Farm Bureau member Karin Bump (l) at her SaddleUpNY booth at New York Farm Bureau's Taste of NY Reception. Pictured in the background are (l-r) Assemblyman Stephen Hawley, Student Intern from Miner Institute Jen Ward, soon-to-be Student Intern from Miner Institute Elizabeth LaValley and Assemblyman Joe Angelino.



Madison County hosted visitors from Illinois recently. Pontiac FFA joined members of the Lowville FFA in Lewis County NY to take a tour of Morrisville's campus and Equine Rehabilitation center. This is something the National FFA refers to as a chapter exchange visit. They also were able to visit a maple syrup operation, dairy farm and logging operation to gain some insight on what NY agriculture looks like. In addition they also went to FFA Camp at Oswegatchie. Thank you to everyone who worked to help educate our future farmers!





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**Madison County Farm Bureau**



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**MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
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Madison County Farm Bureau meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 730 p.m. at CCE in Morrisville, NY.