

# Cortland County Farm Bureau

March 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring will be here before we know it and 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 plans to be 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 meet with our local Senate 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 proposed legislation that we either support or oppose.

Some of the other priorities this session include 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.

*Emily Olsenwik*

Cortland County Farm Bureau Board President

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

### CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Applications are available for any Cortland County high school senior wishing to apply for the Cortland County Farm Bureau 2024 Scholarship. Scholarships in the amount of \$500 are available for non-agricultural majors. \$1,000 award is available for anyone in an agricultural major. Applications can be obtained by contacting Jeff Perry at [jap255@cornell.edu](mailto:jap255@cornell.edu). **Last date to apply is April 15, 2024.**

### NYFB AG YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

Any 2024 graduating high school senior who is planning on continuing their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural industry is invited to apply for the New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Applicants must live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture in some way. Family Farm Bureau membership or Student Farm Bureau membership is also required and may accompany the application. Applications must be completed and submitted by 11:59 p.m. on March 11, 2024. **Application link:** [https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/2024\\_New\\_York\\_Farm\\_Bureau\\_Agricultural\\_Youth\\_Scholarship](https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/2024_New_York_Farm_Bureau_Agricultural_Youth_Scholarship)



## 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.



### CORTLAND YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS EVENT HELD

The first Young Farmers & Rancher (YF&R) event for Cortland County Farm Bureau was held February 15 as a YF&R Bowling Social.

This event was for anyone with a passion for agriculture who would like to meet like-minded individuals. Stay tuned to the Cortland County Farm Bureau Facebook page for future YF&R events scheduled! These events are open to any young farmer/agribusiness person as we look to assemble a Young Farmers & Ranchers group in Cortland County. You DO NOT have to be a Farm Bureau member to attend. Spouses/significant others are welcome.

We hope to see you all at our next event! Be sure to like the Cortland County Farm Bureau Facebook page as the next announcement will be posted there!



You are cordially invited to attend the  
**8th Annual  
 Cortland County Agriculture Celebration Banquet**

*Bringing together agriculture, community and business to celebrate our  
 agricultural heritage and accomplishments*

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Hathaway House      6:30 p.m. ~ Cocktail Hour  
 Route 41, Solon      7:00 p.m. ~ Dinner ~ buffet  
 \$20 per person (by mail) \$22 per person (online)

Registration Link and QR Code: <https://bit.ly/3SG2qFF>



*Featuring:*

Annual Geraldine Young “Friend of Agriculture” Award and  
 Cortland County Farm Family Award

*Presented by:*

*Cortland County Business Development Corporation*

In partnership with:

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County

Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cortland County Chamber of Commerce

USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency

Cortland County Farm Bureau



Complete and return this section with payment for your reservation to (payment required to secure registration):  
 Cortland County BDC, 40 Main St., Suite A, Cortland NY 13045 *(Please make check out to the Cortland County BDC)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



**RSVP By March 6, 2024**



New York Farm Bureau  
159 Wolf Road, Suite 300  
Albany, NY 12205



Cortland County Farm Bureau



Boldly,  
NY.  
[www.newyorkwines.org](http://www.newyorkwines.org)



\*Tier 1: Basic Business Support Services (\$50 value - FREE with offer code!) Includes industry conference discounts, and access to a variety of informational webinars. Tier 2: Capacity Building and Educational Services (\$100 value - 50% off with offer code!) Includes access to enhanced webinars on topics like sustainable farming and marketing your grapes. This membership package also provides access to one-on-one consulting with experts in areas like tax, finance, marketing, & sales. Learn more about NYWGF Grower Membership - <https://newyorkwines.org/grower-membership/>

## CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bailey Coon, Field Advisor.....	518-937-0566
CNYFB County Support Office.....	518-431-5670
ENYFB County Support Office .....	518-431-5650

The Cortland County Farm Bureau meetings are usually held the third Thursday of each month at New Hope View Farms in Homer.