

# Ontario County Farm Bureau

April 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



## Presidents Report

Hello Ontario County Farm Bureau members,

It has been a pleasure to serve as your county president. After being away for a number of years, I am encouraged with the enthusiasm and energy that our young board brings to the county. We hope to bring value to our members by being active and participating in local and state events that bring our county's agriculture into the future.

We were fortunate to have six members attend the state annual meeting in December. There we witnessed the grassroots efforts of our counties to bring change to our state government.

Some successful, some not. From there we participated in the state lobby days in Albany highlighted by the Taste of NY legislative reception, a huge display of agricultural products from all across the state for the legislators and staff to sample and visit.

We will be around the county holding monthly meetings, summer picnics, and kitchen conferences. Reach out to us if you have issues or concerns that you would like resolved. My number is 315-462-3177.

*John Mueller*

Ontario County Farm Bureau President

## ONTARIO COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



Every year Ontario County Farm Bureau offers scholarships in the amount of \$500 to high school seniors who have displayed a dedication to agriculture and shown an interest in continued education in an agricultural field. Scholarships are open the first of the year and awarded at our annual Ag Appreciation banquet in March. Pictured are this year's recipients Ariana Hicks and Cadence Spence.

## SAVE THE DATES

Ontario County Farm Bureau meetings are regularly held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at CCE Ontario, Canandaigua, NY unless another location is specified.



7.23.24-7.27.24 - **Ontario County Fair Week**

8.9.24 / 3 PM - **Summer Picnic: meet the candidates discussion.** Bona Terra farm, 2460 Cox Rd, Bloomfield, NY 14469.

9.28.24 / 11-4 PM - **Fun on the Farm** held at Hemdale farms.

10.18.24 / 5PM - **Annual Meeting** held at NY Kitchen, 800 S. Main St. Canandaigua, NY 14424.

**Kitchen Conferences TBD:** Kitchen Conferences are informal meetings to discuss Farm Bureau Priorities before the State Annual meeting. We would like to invite current members and prospective members to voice what Farm Bureau could do for them and how we can lobby for farmers' best interest when creating new legislation.

## YOUR ONTARIO COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We'd like to take the time to introduce you all to our Ontario County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Our board members are a diverse, dedicated group of people with all kinds of backgrounds and experience. Please feel free to reach out if ever you have questions or need some assistance.



### **ERIC AMBERG**

Owner/operator of Amberg Grapevines. I am the second generation of our grapevine nursery. I have been a past president of Ontario County Farm Bureau. I also serve on the National Clean Plant

Network, Grapes board, Finger Lakes Grape Advisory board, and am the vice treasurer of Closer Walk of Upper NY, a Christian retreat program. My wife Sandra and I have 4 wonderful children, 2 daughters-in-law and a brand-new grandson. I enjoy home improvement projects and boating on Seneca Lake with my wife.

### **JASON BARRETT**



Master Distiller Jason Barrett founded Black Button Distilling in 2012 as the first distillery to operate in Rochester, NY since prohibition. In 2017, Barrett became only the second American to join the UK-based Gin Guild as Warden Rectifier.

In 2020 Rochester Business Journal recognized him as a Forty Under 40 award recipient. And in 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023, Black Button Distilling was listed on the Inc. 5000 as one of the fastest-growing private companies in America. Jason is also a founding member of the NYS Empire Rye Whiskey Association. In his spare time Jason enjoys spending quality time with his wife Stephanie and kids.

### **JAKE MINNS**

Jake and his wife Sarah live in the town of Seneca with their two boys. He owns and operates a fourth generation dairy farm in Seneca Castle with his Father bill and Uncle Doug. When he is not farming he enjoys helping coach lacrosse in the spring, camping, and deer hunting in the fall.

### **LIBBY EIHOLZER**

Libby works for Cargill and focuses on helping farms to professionalize their approach to management. She loves helping farm teams improve their communication and organization to achieve greater success. Libby enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter, and dogs on their farm in Stanley.

### **CONNER HURST**

Conner is the head of sales and operations for Big aLICE Brewing a New York State farm brewery. Conner's interest in agriculture was sparked by

working with the head brewers at Big aLICE to utilize more NY state ingredients. Conner has been a board member for 3 years serving as secretary. In his spare time Conner enjoys spending time with his fiancé Mackenzie as they prepare for their wedding in June this year.



### **JAMES MALYJ**

Jim retired in 2018 as District Manager of Seneca County Soil & Water District after 30 years of service. During that time he also operated a small cash crop farm in the Town of Seneca and also worked part-time at the family owned Harley-Davidson dealership. He is a graduate of

Morrisville College and Western Kentucky University with a M.S. degree in Agronomy. As district manager, Jim was a founding member of the Finger Lakes Watershed Protection Alliance and was a CCA. Jim currently serves as a Town Councilman on the Town of Seneca Board and is currently serving as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the town. Jim also serves on the Board of Directors for Ontario County Soil & Water District. Jim believes that some of the challenges are unrealistic environmental regulations, proposed by downstate interests, who have little understanding of agriculture. Jim strongly believes in the responsible use of agricultural chemicals. Potential bans of glyphosate and other crop protection products would be devastating to NY agriculture.

### **JACOB MASLYN**

Jacob works at Cooperative Extension serving local farmers, beginning entrepreneurs, and educating local government about farm activities and events. Jacob serves as our Young Farmer and Rancher chair and has been doing this for over four years hosting trivia nights, and other casual young farmer events. In his spare time Jacob likes to ski, hike, and generally be outside as much as possible doing adventures.

### **JULIE MASLYN**

Julie has been the Pro-Eed Chair for over 20 years and works diligently at publicizing our scholarships to high school seniors and planning Fun on The Farm every other year. This year is a Fun on The Farm year which means Julie is busier than ever planning for the event, inviting school groups, and making sure we have

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## YOUNG FARMERS MESSAGE

Jacob Maslyn as Young Farmer and Rancher Chair, actively works to engage with the local FFA chapters and young farmers around the county. We host a trivia night yearly and meet up semi-regularly to discuss farming activities and catch up. One of the things Ontario County Farm Bureau has done is provide scholarships to high school seniors going into an agricultural field of study in hopes to pursue a lifelong career of supporting agriculture. We look forward to the next generation of farmers coming back to Ontario County agriculture and being active in Farm Bureau by participating in discussion meets and other young farmer competitive events. If you would like to know more about Young Farmer and Rancher activities, you are welcome to attend future events or reach out to Jacob via email or text. JLM563@cornell.edu or 585-626-9958.



New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception was held on March 4 & 5 in Albany. Ontario County members met with legislators to discuss NYFB's 2024 Legislative Priority Issues. Pictured is Senator Pamela Helming (5th from right) with Ontario County Farm Bureau members, as well as, members from Livingston, Monroe and Wayne County.

## Meet Your Ontario County Board Continued

plenty of volunteers. In her spare time, Julie enjoys reading and spending time with her family of 4 kids and husband. If you are interested in volunteering for Fun on The Farm and want to be added to the email list please email Julie at Juliemaslyn13@gmail.com and she will add you to her list.



### JOHN MUELLER

I am a dairy farmer from Clifton Springs and a partner in Willow Bend Farm since 1991. Currently serving as Farm Bureau County president. Chair of Trustees for the United Methodist Church of Clifton Springs. Secretary of the Clifton Springs YMCA board.

On the Ontario County Cornell Cooperative Extension Board. Assistant scout master for Troop 59 of Clifton Springs. Married for 28 years. 5 children and 4 grandchildren. Very excited and optimistic about Ontario County's agricultural future.



### JAKE RATHBUN

Jake is a fourth-generation farmer in Naples. He graduated from Cornell with a degree in Agricultural Science in 2018. Jake then worked in Massachusetts as a soil conservationist with NRCS before returning to the farm in 2021. He now helps his family grow a variety of grains and

potatoes. He also formed his own LLC where he specializes in organic and specialty grains mostly for NY breweries and distilleries. In his free time Jake

enjoys traveling, cooking, and talking about farming.

### TIMOTHY STRYKER

Tim is the Assistant Farm Manager of his family's grain and hay farm in Canandaigua. He is involved with the Farm Bureau Young Farmer Program (YF&R), where he is on the state committee. He is passionate about history and agricultural environmental stewardship. In his spare time he likes to participate in antique tractor activities with the Bellona, NY IH club. He also likes to ski and hike.



### JOHN CASEY WOOD

Casey is the owner of The Woods, a Regenerative Farm overlooking Canandaigua Lake in Bristol. Casey works in global brand management and began his farming journey in 2021 as a first-generation farmer growing a variety of vegetables, chickens, and

other crops for a market stand. Passionate about his community, Casey serves on many other boards including the Canandaigua Watershed board and South Bristol Planning board. He enjoys community building, coaching hockey, days on the lake, skiing, and spending time with his two dogs and family.

### MATTHEW WORDEN

Is an owner/ operator of Will-O-Crest Farms, a second generation dairy farm in Clifton Springs. His role as operations manager allows him to build strong teams that focus on quality and efficiency. When not at work Matt enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters.

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



## SLOW MOVING VEHICLE CAMPAIGN

Ontario County Farm Bureau has partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension Ontario on the **Slow-Moving Vehicle Safety Campaign** to increase awareness and safety around slow-moving vehicles. Agricultural equipment, horse and buggies, and bicycles are a presence on public roadways that drivers must be prepared to encounter, especially in rural communities. To support the Slow Moving-Vehicle Safety Campaign, stop by the CCE Ontario Office and grab a FREE yard sign or bumper sticker to remind drivers to safely share the road.



## ONTARIO COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** John Mueller ..... 315-462-6194

**VICE President:** John Casey Wood ..... 585-739-2157

**SECRETARY:** Connor Hurst ..... 920-750-0650

**TREASURER:** Jason Barrett ..... 585-953-0713

### **DIRECTORS:**

Timothy Stryker ..... 585-734-1300

James Malyj ..... 315-945-2046

Jacob Rathbun ..... 585-857-7249

Jake Minns ..... 315-521-6917

Matt Worden ..... 585-455-6399

Libby Eholzer ..... 607-793-4847

Eric Amberg ..... 585-317-3856

Julie Maslyn, Pro-Ed Chair ..... 585-737-8193

Jacob Maslyn, YF&R Chair ..... 585-626-9958

**COUNTY MANAGER:** Mark James ..... 585-738-0242

**COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICE:** Jill Williamson 518-431-5670

Ontario County Farm Bureau board meets the third Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Cooperative Extension Office in Canandaigua.