

# Oswego County Farm Bureau

April 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oswego County Farm Bureau members,

Spring is upon us and planting season will soon be underway. But first, we have another important season to cultivate, New York State budget season.

Lawmakers are still 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.

Oswego County Farm Bureau director Courtney Yawman represented Oswego County in Albany for the annual New York Farm Bureau Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day. Courtney met with our local Senators and Assembly Members along with adopted lawmakers from New York City. Courtney advocated for the agriculture budget and discussed the impacts of other proposed legislation that we either support or oppose.

Some of the other priorities this budget 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.

*Bruce Gibson, President*  
Oswego County Farm Bureau

*Join us on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. til 1 p.m. at the Mexico Community Park in Mexico, NY to help raise awareness for slow moving vehicles.*

## SLOW MOVING VEHICLE AWARENESS DAY!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**11 a.m. til 1 p.m.**

**MEXICO COMMUNITY PARK**

**3058 NY 104, MEXICO, NY**



As spring planting season begins, Oswego County Farm Bureau, in conjunction with the Sheriff's department and NY Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay, are highlighting the need for caution on the roads of Oswego County. We'll be distributing lawn signs for members to place on their property. We want to blanket the agricultural and Amish corridors specifically. Come out and meet your board members, have a refreshment and help improve road safety for our Farmers!!!

## 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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### 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.



## 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.

## OSWEGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS LOBBY DAY

Oswego County Farm Bureau 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.

**Photo:** Assembly member Will Barclay (c) received a Friend of Farm Bureau award at New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day from Oswego, Cayuga and Jefferson County Farm Bureau members. This award is given once during each Congress to those members who have supported Farm Bureau policy as shown by their voting records or other actions.



## OSWEGO 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

**Oswego** County school children 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 Jaelyn 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.

Oswego County Farm Bureau was pleased to be able to purchase books to be 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.

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



Oswego County Farm Bureau

This issue of Oswego County Farm Bureau News  
sponsored by:

*Rainbow Shores*  
Pulaski, NY

**RAINBOW SHORES**

186 S. Rainbow Shores Rd. • Pulaski

315-298-5110

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*Opening for the season in May*



*MILL HOUSE*  
MARKET

**Mill House Market**

3790 NY Route 13 • Pulaski

315-298-4104

millhousemarket13@yahoo.com

Tues. through Sat.: 7 a.m.—7 p.m.

Sun.: 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Closed Mon.

*Eatery / Bakery / Gifts*

**OSWEGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

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Marc Greco..... 845-707-0717

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Courtney Yawman ..... 315-877-2712

Paul Glenister ..... 315-298-6648

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**COUNTY MANAGER** Bailey Coon... 518-937-0566

**CNY OFFICE** Jill Williamson ..... 518-431-5670

**ENY OFFICE** Felicia Dougherty .... 518-431-5650

Oswego County Farm Bureau meets on the first  
Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Stefano's Pizzeria,  
3273 Main Street in Mexico.