

# Genesee County Farm Bureau

May 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Springtime is here, and work is starting on farms for the growing season ahead of us. The good news is that budget season is behind us. Lawmakers in Albany passed a new state budget a few weeks late, but overall, there are many positive things for agriculture. This includes full funding for many of the important commodities, marketing, research, and conservation programs that support our farms. State budget funding is one of the priority issues for Farm Bureau this session.

Our county Farm Bureau traveled to Albany in March 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 was 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 include expanding the refundable investment tax credit to include farmworker housing. Unfortunately, this was left out of the final state budget, but we will continue to advocate for our essential employees and labor needs. NYFB is also prioritizing legislation allowing for direct-to-consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and spirits.

When it comes to the protection of farmland under stress from potential solar development, New York Farm Bureau also successfully supported language in the final budget document to protect farmland from the state's Build Ready program. The Build Ready program is designed to locate and assess sites within the state that appear suitable for solar development to make it easier to locate installations. New language in the state budget now prevents land used in agricultural production, land in agricultural district or land that contains mineral soil groups 1-4 from being considered for development under this program.

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.

*Bryan Lord*

Genesee County Farm Bureau President

## RURAL MENTAL HEALTH RESILIENCY

Rural Minds founder, NY FarmNet board member, and NY dairy farmer Jeff Winton will share his passion for helping rural families confront mental health challenges. Join us to hear his moving story.

**Date:** May 20  
**Time:** 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Location:** Church on Green  
5 N Academy Street  
Wyoming, NY





## **KINDERFARMIN' SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5  
HILDENE FARM  
10972 ROANOKE RD., PAVILION, NY**

Spring has arrived and with it comes Genesee County Farm Bureau's annual event - Kinderfarmin'! This event brings kindergarten students from the county to see a working dairy farm and learn about agriculture. The day includes guided tours, hands-on learning stations and lots of fun. We are reaching out to you to encourage participation and renew excitement about our nationally-recognized educational event. We now have every school in Genesee County attending, and thus are in need of more volunteers!

Any and all help is appreciated! Even if you can only help first thing in the morning, we have roles available for you. A few specific independent teaching stations are available if people have a real interest in interacting with our kindergartners. Thank you in advance for your consideration and time. This is a great opportunity to let our county's resources shine! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Natasha Stein: [stein\\_natasha@yahoo.com](mailto:stein_natasha@yahoo.com).

### Schedule for the day:

8:15 a.m. - Volunteers check-in  
8:30 a.m. - Volunteer informational meeting  
9:00 a.m. - Students begin arriving  
1:00 p.m. - Final bus departs  
1:30 p.m. - Pizza Lunch

## **REMEMBER TO E-LOBBY**

New York Farm Bureau Lobbying efforts are ongoing and we'd like you to join us! Participating is easy when you go to our website at [NYFB.org](http://NYFB.org) and click on the e-Lobby-Take Action! Icon. Choose your passion and show elected officials you support New York Agriculture! Current action items that you can help support are:

- Senator Skoufis and Assemblymember Lupardo have introduced two bills on NY Farm Bureau priorities.
  1. S.8761/A.9726 would exempt farmers and farm employees from CDL requirements when operating a covered farm vehicle within 150 miles of their farm, and
  2. S.8762/A.9666 directs the state DOT to create a program so that trucks only have to go through one department of transportation safety checkpoint per day.
- Tell legislators to support direct to consumer shipping for all of New York's farm beverage producers.



## **GENESEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU DOT CLINIC HELD**

A DOT Training Clinic was held recently at CY Farms in Elba NY and was attended by almost 70 farmers throughout the western New York area. Matt Luft, New York State Police Troop A CVEU was the presenter for the clinic which discussed DOT regulations and new laws.



## GENESEEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS LOBBY DAYS

Genesee 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. Genesee County Farm Bureau also meet with urban "Adopted Legislators." For some of these legislators, it may have been the first contact with an agricultural producer.



**Top photo:** Genesee County Farm Bureau President Bryan Lord (l) along with Genesee County Farm Bureau member Dennis Schuck (r) had the opportunity to meet with "Adopted Legislator" Senator Kevin Parker (c) from Booklyn.

**Photo left:** Senator George Borrello met with County Farm Bureau members from Genesee and Wyoming counties to discuss New York Farm Bureau's 2024 Legislative priorities. The Warsaw FFA chapter from Wyoming County was also in attendance.



## GENESEEE 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.

Genesee County school children had the celebration brought to them this year. With the help of over 20+ volunteers, as well as Oakfield, Elba and Byron-Bergan FFA, 60 classrooms and at least three library programs were introduced 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.

Genesee County Farm Bureau was pleased to be able to help 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.

Genesee County Farm Bureau  
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 New York Farm Bureau



### GENESEEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Genesee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except April and May) at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County in Batavia.



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