

Ulster County Farm Bureau News

July 2024



To Serve & Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message

Hello,

Well, it is officially Summer! Spring threw us a few curve balls and there is no reason to assume that Summer is going to be all sunshine and roses – but we have each other and if we come together as a team, wonderful things are possible.



Believe it or not the NY legislative session is over for the year. Once again, the Farm Bureau team, along with many county members, spent multiple days in Albany doing office visits, making calls, and sending letters to lobby legislators and staff on bills that are important to our sector. We worked hard to get some passed and worked even harder to keep many from making it through the process. Now the focus is on either 'calling the bill up for signature' or 'working for a veto.' If you would like to help, please visit the eLobby section of the New York Farm Bureau website where you can make your preferences known to Governor Hochul 'with a click.'

With the close of one legislative session, we are now focused on the next one. As a grass roots organization, New York Farm Bureau policies originate in the county organizations. Policy proposals submitted by members are voted on at the County Annual Meeting in October before moving on to a state-wide vote at the State Annual Meeting. If you would like to suggest a policy, please let any board member know and we can help you through the process.

Have a wonderful Summer and hold the date for our County Annual Meeting on October 21st!

Sincerely, Kim Wagner

Emu House Inc. A New 501(c)3

A new egg has hatched! Emu House, Inc, is a non profit agricultural organization formed for emu rescue, resource, and education. Their focus is on helping farmers as well as providing public education for those who wish to learn more about raising and keeping emu birds. Humane capture of loose birds and rehoming abandoned emu to an agricultural and safe environment is also part of their mission.

The organization occupies a space at Thunderhorse Hollow Farm, located in Ulster Park. The founder, Kymara Lonergan, wants farmers to know the benefits of adding Emu to their livestock. Emu are omnivores that graze on many harmful insects, including the spotted lantern fly. They are low impact animals that are perfect for a silvopasture environment, and spread seeds by grazing on fruits and grasses. Their manure is immediately useful as fertilizer because food remains in their digestive tracts for a short amount of time and there is minimal build up of gasses.

One emu egg equals one dozen chicken eggs and they are higher in omega fatty acids. Emu meat is highly sought after as a healthy and lean diet choice, and is known to be the only red meat that people who suffer from the Alpha Gal allergy can eat. Emu feathers have been added to the NY-Grown program and are considered a fiber along with sheep and llama wool. Emu oil is extremely popular for cosmetic and supplement use.



Emu House is funded by private donations and donations from businesses for the use of their Ethically Sourced seal for labels on emu-based products.

Cont'd on the back:

Legislative Success

For a complete list go to: www.nyfb.org/advocacy/memos

Authorizes the direct intrastate and interstate shipment of alcoholic beverages.

Adds the definition of cannabis to Agriculture and Markets law.

Relates to the appointment for agricultural representation on the state fire prevention and building code council.

Clarifies that the farm overtime

tax credit can be utilized by farms that utilize a management company owned by the farm for payroll/HR purposes.

Expands the definition of surplus agricultural products and processed products for the Nourish NY program to include New York grown, produced or harvested whole milk, two percent fat milk, and other farm produced beverages.

Clarifies the law to require each livestock and equine rescue facility to hold a Domestic Animal Health Permit.

Amends state law to provide crop loss determination equity for farm wineries and provide equal treatment for all producers licensed to produce New York labeled cider.

Authorizes the cannabis control board to issue a cannabis showcase event permit to certain licensees authorized to conduct retail sales of adult-use cannabis and cannabis products.

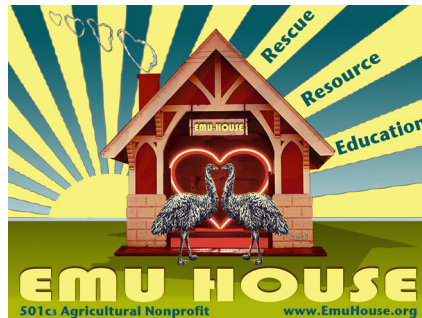
Establishes the beginning farmer advisory board on agriculture

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



Emu Cont'd:

Planned projects include raising funds for a public education hatchery facility, creating an educational program for schools and 4-H projects, organizing a co-op of farmers in NY, establishing a referral line for farmers who need resources, teaching first responders about humane capture and ongoing Zoom classes.



Volunteers are needed. More info can be found at EmuHouse.org or by calling 207-286-7399

Ulster County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Kim Wagner, President	845-926-0548
Ray Cullen, Vice President	845-246-9427
Sarah Dressel, Secretary	845-234-8872
Jennifer Kohn, Treasurer	845-629-2990
Dan Heavens	860-921-7192
Kymara Lonergan	207-286-7398
Chris Kelder	845-626-7284
John Kelder, YFR Chair	845-399-5151
Tim Dressel, NYFB Director	845-453-2004
Renee Ciardi, County Manager	518-461-8659
NYFB County Support Office	518-431-5650