

# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Summer 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are having a good summer and all is going well on the farm or in your business.

There are many advantages to being a member of Farm Bureau. One of the most important is the group of

farmers we have locally to network with and talk about issues important to each of us. This also includes having a say in the direction of the organization at the state and national levels. There is no other place for farmers to turn to for help and feedback than Farm Bureau.

Our successes were on display at the state capitol in Albany. In the end, we had a strong legislative season, in large part because of our member advocacy. New York Farm Bureau secured record budget funding for agriculture which will help the broad diversity of our farms. We also were successful in getting some major legislation across the finish line, including securing the right of our craft cideries and distilleries to directly ship to the customers.

The legislature amended the farmworker overtime tax credit that will ensure all farms have access to this important tool to help minimize rising labor costs. And a bill was passed making cannabis an agricultural crop, opening important resources to members who choose to grow it.

We also defended and stopped some additional bills that could have posed serious challenges to our farms and increased the cost of doing business. The passage of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act would have upended the state's recycling program and especially burdened agricultural producers and food processors. Likewise, the TEMP Act would have set new workplace standards, reporting requirements and worker health screenings when temperatures top 80 degrees, hardly a heat extreme. Our advocacy made a difference.

With the session behind us, we can begin to focus on the public policy for 2025. Over the next few months,

I encourage you to think about issues on your farm and any policy changes that could help you and your family. We will gather this fall at the County Annual Meeting to vote on any new resolutions. And you're invited to attend State Annual Convention this December at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, NY where the focus will be on leadership, innovation, and diversification. Registration opens August 1, so be watching for more details.

Finally, if you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss, please reach out to me. The county Farm Bureau is here for you to help connect you with resources, find answers, and be a source of support. Thank you for being a member and for what you do every day on your farm.

*Kyle Hafemann*

Jefferson County Farm Bureau President



**NYFB.ORG/STORE**

The above link will take you to the storefront landing page on our website. From there, click where it says "click here" to start shopping. You will be able to order all items with your specific County Farm Bureau logo. You can finally own an official Jefferson County Farm Bureau hat!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTRICT 6 NYFB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Kirsten Widrick, from Chaumont, NY and a member of Jefferson County Farm Bureau is the District 6 NYFB Scholarship Winner. A graduating senior this year from Lyme Central School District, Kirsten will be attending Oswego University in the Fall.

**Pictured (l-r):** Kyle Hafemann, Jefferson County Farm Bureau president and District 6 NYFB scholarship winner Kirsten Widrick along with her parents Alison and David.



## JEFFERSON COUNTY DAIRY PARADE

Jefferson County Farm Bureau teamed up with the Belleville Henderson FFA this year putting together a float for the June 7, 2024 Jefferson County Dairy Parade! Yes, there was a cow on the float!

### Special thanks to:

- SN Partners-NY (formerly Caz Equipment) for supplying the tractor
- Hy-Light Farms for bringing a calf to ride on the float
- Agri-Mark and DFA for supplying us with cheese
- Senator Mark Walczyk's office for helping to pass out the cheese at the parade
- Jay Matteson and his team at Jefferson County Ag Economic Development for a wonderful job organizing the event
- Numerous Farm Bureau members, FFA members, and Alumni for their help!



## FFA BLUE JACKET AWARDS

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is proud to award deserving Jefferson County FFA members with their own Blue Jacket. The FFA Blue Jacket is more than the official jacket worn by its members, it is a symbol of faith, honor, and pride and reminds them that they are part of something larger than themselves. Congratulations to our Blue Jacket Award recipients. Thank you to Jay Matteson, Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board member, who presented jacket awards to our recipients.

**Kaysen Parker, Belleville Henderson FFA (photo right)** Kaysen has just completed the seventh grade and has been in Jr. FFA for the past two years. As an FFA member he's participated in parades, dairy judging, and Fairs. Just this year, he showed his own cattle at the Jefferson County Fair. We hope to see more of Kaysen in the future.



**Katie Lyman, Carthage FFA (photo far right)** Katie is a 10th grade student who began participating in FFA in middle school. In middle school Katie participated in summer leadership camp, winter FFA weekend, the Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event, and numerous FFA fundraisers. Katie stated through FFA she wants to expand her horizons and enjoys learning about the world around us.



**Lillian Beach, Indian River FFA (photo lower right)** Lillian has been actively involved in FFA for 2 years and has participated in multiple speaking contests including Junior People in Agriculture and Jr. Extemporaneous Speaking. Recently Lillian was nominated to the position of Jefferson County Jr. Dairy Ambassador. Congratulations Lillian! Gage Kampnich, Indian River FFA president, joined Lillian and Jay Matteson in the photo.



**Emerson Ginger, South Jefferson FFA (photo lower far right)** Emerson is a middle school FFA member who has a goal of someday owning and operating his grandfather's dairy farm. He currently helps on his grandfather's beef farm. Emerson is already developing great leadership skills, serving as an officer for his chapter. Emerson expressed to Jay he enjoys the business of dairy farming, and he is quite the young communicator!!!



## REMEMBER TO E-LOBBY

This year's legislative season may be over, but New York Farm Bureau's e-Lobby efforts continue! Show your support of NYFB's e-lobby action items by going to [NYFB.org](http://NYFB.org) and click on the E-Lobby-Take Action! button. Choose your passion and show the Governor that you support New York agriculture! Below are a few of the items at [NYFB.org](http://NYFB.org) that you can add your voice to with a few clicks of the button!

### **Tell the Governor to SIGN Direct to Consumer Shipping Bill**

A3132-A/S2852-A has passed both the Assembly and Senate and will be sent to the Governor for her consideration. This bill will give parity to distilleries and cideries by allowing them to ship direct to consumer.

### **Tell the Governor to VETO the Procurement Bill**

S6955-A/A7264-A passed both houses and could go to the Governor any time for her consideration. This bill would allow municipalities to give procurement preference to products that meet certain standards. It is very concerning that it would also allow procurement preference for food produced in neighboring states and establish preferences in state law that don't reflect regulated production methods.



New York Farm Bureau  
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Albany, NY 12205

Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Jefferson County Farm Bureau meets on the  
first Wednesday of each month (except June and  
December) at Cazenovia Equipment in Watertown.