

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau

FALL 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wanted to encourage you with my final newsletter message as your President. When I first moved here from Massachusetts fifteen years ago I never thought I'd spend most of my years in New York as a County Farm Bureau President. But even if I had known that, I could never have guessed how rewarding it would be.

The year after we established our farm here, I accepted an offer to join the county board. It was a great opportunity to meet people in the county. I needed to be involved after moving more than 10 hours from my original farm and community. Getting involved with people here was very rewarding. It made me a better person and it was good for my mental health. I would encourage all members to get more involved. You get to see that other people experience the same successes and face the same problems that you do. It makes life easier to live. After serving on the board as a director for three years, I accepted the challenge to be county President which I've been for the past eleven years. I've also spent six years of that time as a director on the New York Farm Bureau board. That was quite eye opening and interesting.

Probably the most rewarding thing I've experienced as President was to see young people come out of their shells by serving on the board. Confidence and other leadership qualities blossomed right before my very eyes. Another big reward was growing deep relationships with Dennis Webster, Andy Goodell, Tom Reed, Vince

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All are Welcome to Attend!

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

FALCON'S NEST, 2001 E MAIN ST., FALCONER, NY

Doors open at 6 PM with appetizers • Beef on Weck dinner served at 6:30 PM

Cost: \$20 per person

We hope you'll join us as we conduct our annual business meeting where we will adopt resolutions, elect new officers and receive reports regarding activities held throughout the year. NYS Assembly District 150 candidates Andrew Molitor and Mike Bobseine have indicated they plan on attending to introduce themselves and tell their plans for improving agriculture in the state of New York.

This will also be Dick Kimball's last Annual Meeting as county Farm Bureau president as he is stepping down. We're grateful for his years of dedicated service and we invite you to join us in expressing our thanks as we honor him at this year's County Annual meeting.

RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 12

*Email: jwilliamson@nyfb.org
or call 518-431-5670*

Please include your name, number of persons attending and your County Farm Bureau if emailing or leaving a message. **Be sure to note any food allergies!**

DO YOU HAVE ISSUES YOU'D LIKE ADDRESSED? IT'S TIME FOR COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

One of the greatest rewards of Farm Bureau membership is seeing an idea you had to improve agricultural policy actually become a law or to change a rule or regulation. The July/August edition of Grassroots included a section of questions that our Public Policy Department asked you as members to weigh in on. You do so by introducing a resolution at the county Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (notice in this newsletter). Are you frustrated by the rules

governing CDL licenses? Our state staff is trying to clarify the law and needs your input to do so. Do you have concerns about how ATVs and UTVs are registered and how they are allowed to be utilized on roadways? One of our members is and will be bringing forth a resolution to be addressed on September 17. Please be thinking about what bugs you and consider using the power of this group you belong to as a springboard to change.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY TRAINING HELD

By the time you receive this, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau will have participated in its third demonstration tackling the safety issue of either Grain Bin Entrapments or Manure Related Asphyxiation. We have helped the county Emergency Management Office to secure a grain bin rescue tube and our county organization has donated a grain auger to supplement this donation so that our county personnel have what they need for a rescue. We used monies raised at our annual Trivia Night for this donation. We have had a good response from our emergency personnel in the county to these trainings and hopefully we are much more prepared for emergency situations



than we have been in the past. If you wish to contribute to our efforts to continue these trainings either with donations or with your time and resources, please send an email to Jim Joy (jjoy9825@gmail.com).

We'd like to express a big THANK YOU to Lesch Farms and Westfield Ag & Turf for their contributions to the Grain Bin Rescue Demonstration & Training on August 22.

YOUR FARM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Farm Bureau is making a transition from calendar year memberships over to anniversary date memberships. That means that if you join in September your dues will be due by the end of September next year. Please consider encouraging family members, neighbors, friends and business associates to be Farm Bureau members. Simply send them to www.nyfb.org to have them sign up or have them call 800-342-4143 to join using their credit card. You can strengthen the future of agriculture in Chautauqua County with just the simple act of encouraging another to join.

We now have an Enterprise Membership which gives farm owners the option of providing employees memberships and adding that to one bill that the farm then pays for. If you gross more than \$250,000 you should have this membership anyway. Why not get your employees engaged in the organization and give them an opportunity to have a voice!

DENNIS WEBSTER RETIRES



Thank you Dennis Webster for all of your years of service to the agricultural community in Chautauqua County using your voice on WJTN radio. To Dennis, reporting on the happenings in agriculture was more than just a job and this showed in his finished product. In his retirement, we want Dennis to know that he will always be considered a big part of the agricultural community in our county!



Farming Forward
Leadership. Innovation. Diversification.

STA-CON 24: NYFB STATE ANNUAL CONVENTION

FARMING FORWARD:

LEADERSHIP. INNOVATION. DIVERSIFICATION

DECEMBER 3 - 5, 2024 · TURNING STONE RESORT CASINO

New York Farm Bureau is once again hosting a Future of Agriculture in New York State forum at our state convention. This event called “Farming Forward: Leadership. Innovation. Diversification” will be held on Wednesday, December 4 at Turning Stone Casino and will provide an engaging program and numerous workshops to help NYFB members, farmers and agricultural professionals better plan for the future. Early bird registration is due September 30. You can find more information under the Events tab on the state website www.nyfb.org. Please encourage businesses you work with to consider sponsorship opportunities.

SUCCESSFUL GRAPE POLICY FORUM

In response to grower concerns expressed at a Cornell Cooperative Extension Coffee Pot meeting (weekly on-farm meetings held for grape growers by staff of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP)) a forum with our county, state and federal representatives was set up by Farm Bureau. Grape farmers as well as processors and others from the grape community took the opportunity to weigh in on agricultural policy affecting grape farming. Congressman Langworthy, Senator Borrello, Assemblyman Goodell and County Executive Wendel were present as were representatives of FSA, CCE, Ag & Markets, and of course Farm Bureau. We wish to thank LERGP staff for hosting us and for all those who attended.



Photo: Assemblyman Goodell (standing) visits with grape growers during the Grape Policy Forum.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FAIR BARN CONTEST RESULTS

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau annually fosters a stronger agricultural presence at the county fair each year by recognizing the 4-H barn at the fair that is the best decorated to improve appearance and provide information to the public. Farm Bureau gives the winning commodity committee for 4-H a \$300 check and second place receives \$200. This year Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County added \$100 to the pot so that we could recognize a third place committee. This year's winners were Rabbit barn, third place; Poultry Barn, second place and the grand prize went to the Goat barn.

THANK YOU! CASSANDRA SKAL
For organizing and running the Barn Contest!

President's Message Cont.

Horrigan, Cathy Young and George Borrello among others. I also developed strong relationships with New York Farm Bureau leaders and staff, even being invited to Long Island last year to take part in their prestigious golf tournament (don't worry, I just drove the cart). These are all relationships that will last forever.

If you can't see yourself sitting on the county board or serving as county president, that's okay, neither could I. Take a chance, step up to the plate and see just how far your decision will take you.

Sincerely,

Dick Kimball

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau President



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 Chautauqua County Farm Bureau

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT: Richard Kimball..... 508-965-6400
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COUNTY MANAGER Tim Bigham..... 716-474-6585

NYFB County Support Offices:
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 Felicia Dougherty..... 518-431-5650



New York Farm Bureau members get deep discounts on critical equipment and supplies AND enjoy free standard ground shipping* when ordering items online, over the phone or at your local Grainger branch. If you have questions or need the members-only discount code, please call 1-800-342-4143.

FREE standard shipping on all orders shipped ground transportation. Other freight charges will be incurred for services such as expedited delivery, special handling by the carrier, sourcing orders and shipments outside the continental United States.