

Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Fall 2024



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

All are cordially invited to attend the

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

**WED., OCTOBER 9
SALLY PORT VIEW**

7828 NY-12E, Three Mile Bay, NY

Social Time 6:30 PM ~ Dinner 7 PM

Cost is **FREE** for Paid Members
or \$30 for non-members
(2 FREE dinners per Membership!)



SPECIAL GUEST
DEANNA FOX
NYFB CEO

RSVP BY OCTOBER 2
ENY@nyfb.org or call 518-431-5650*

** Be sure to reference the
Jefferson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
when making your reservation.*

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



2025 JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
PROPOSED POLICIES

1. We believe that solar companies should not be permitted to have non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in solar leases with farmers.

Background: *Solar companies will include non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in the solar lease documentation so that farmers cannot disclose the amount they are being paid by solar company for the lease. By signing this agreement, the farmer cannot tell neighboring farms what they are being paid. The concern is that farmers are signing the lease agreement, either knowing that the NDA is included but not able to get it taken out of the document, or the farmer misses the NDA language in the agreement and signs it unknowingly. It is also a concern that farmers are not able to share the price information in their area and thus, neighboring farmers do not know what prices to negotiate. On the other hand, NDAs can be a normal part of solar lease agreements and a way for solar companies to make sure that possible confidential information is protected.*

2. We oppose a New York state prohibition on certain wild animals from being able to be transported to fairs for educational exhibition.

Background: *There is proposed legislation that would prohibit kangaroos, non-human primates, wild cats, and wallabies from being transported for “traveling animal acts” which includes being transported to a fair for an educational exhibit. This bill’s supporters want to ensure these types of animals are only located in their natural habitat, zoos, or wildlife sanctuaries. The NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs opposes this legislation since there are educational exhibits of wild animals still being brought to the fairs for the public to view and learn about the animals. There are also concerns that this bill could lead to other species of animals being banned from traveling fairs, including livestock.*

3. We support a CDL exemption for a covered farm vehicle transporting farm products or livestock up to 50 miles from a farm’s business address.

Background: *New York Farm Bureau worked to have a bill introduced (S.8761/A.9726) that would grant farmers an exemption from needing a CDL (or the F and G endorsements) when operating a covered farm vehicle within 150 miles of the farm. However, legislators have had concerns with the bill, including the belief that 150 miles is too far for such an exemption. We would like to gather information about the difficulties with the current situation to help public policy staff develop a successful advocacy strategy for the coming year.*

4. We support an amendment to the NYS Department of Ag & Markets law that would allow on-farm meat processors to process meat from other farms. The percentage of meat allowed to be processed from other farms should not exceed 49% of the total meat processed on the farm, this would align the regulations with that of other on-farm commodity processing regulations.

Background: *Currently New York State Agriculture and Markets law requires that an on-farm processor (in an agriculture district) must produce 100% of the meat processed from the farm operation itself to be protected legally by Agricultural Districts protections. This is the only Agriculture and Market law requiring 100% on farm production, as most other laws (including farm beverage laws as well as farm market laws) only require greater than 50%. This is problematic particularly for meat processing as there is an extremely long lead time in scaling up operations for growing livestock to meet and respond to demand. In addition, there continues to be a significant shortage in USDA slaughterhouses and slaughterhouse appointments.*

5. We oppose efforts in New York State to prohibit the use of certain food additives and food color additives in products such as brominated vegetable oil (BVO), potassium bromate, propylparabens, red dye azodicarbonyl, butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA), and titanium dioxide.

Background: *There is proposed legislation that would prohibit the use of these food additives and food color additives in food products. The legislation exempts dairy products containing titanium dioxide. Supporters of this bill state that these additives negatively impact the health of consumers. These additives have been banned in the U.K. along with California banning all the additives except for titanium dioxide.*

6. We support allowing wine bottles to be refilled on a voluntary basis by farm wineries.

Background: *There is proposed legislation that would require bottles including wine to be refilled. Supporters of the bill believe this is a way to cut down on waste, while opposition has concerns with costs and health risks.*

7. To make roads safe and accident free, highway departments need to consider the vantage point of the operator of larger agricultural equipment. Therefore, we recommend that state, county, and town highway departments:
- Should ensure that all roadways and sides of roadways are cleared of all obstructions.
 - That low shoulders are built level with the road.
 - That intersection markings, road signs, brush and trees do not obstruct vision, and are limbed to a height of 15 feet.
 - That lanes be widened in strategic locations to enable safer passing of equipment.
- (This is a re-affirmation of current policy on pg. 150 # 2 under Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety)
8. We support a change in the agricultural assessment program that would allow for agricultural assessments on rented land to be valid for the length of the term of a lease up to 5 years, instead of having to be renewed every year, so long as ownership and use of the land has not changed.
9. We recommend that all taxable beverage containers, except wine, but including glass, plastic, metal, and beverage water bottles, should be included in the existing bottle deposit law for a refundable \$.10 deposit, with the increased \$.05 portion of the unclaimed bottle deposits being devoted to agricultural environmental projects and farm educational outreach within the Environmental Protection Fund.

**The following polices are all being recommended by NYAAE
(New York Association of Agricultural Educators)**

10. We recommend that Cornell Agriculture in the Classroom explore the feasibility of providing statewide support for Agriculture in the Classroom programs to assist local Extension offices in delivering this crucial outreach to schools. (A revision to #13 pg. 127 under Agriculture in the Classroom)
11. We support ensuring agricultural education is a part of the curriculum of the New York public school system, K through twelve, and made readily available to all school districts which may include programs in education in agriculture, food, and natural resources as part of the curriculum of that district with the introduction of legislation in support of Agricultural Education in New York public schools. (This language would replace current language on pg. 128, #8 under the section High School Agricultural Education)



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.

If you’re interested in attending, please reach out to the local Jefferson County Farm Bureau as there may be possible cost-sharing opportunities available.

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



Jefferson County Farm Bureau



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.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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NYFB COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES:
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Jefferson County Farm Bureau meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except June and December) at SNPartners in Watertown.