



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 18, Issue 1

January/ February 2025

Cattaraugus County Annual Meeting 2024



Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau once again held their annual meeting in conjunction with Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension. There was good food and good friends as the Farm Bureau voted on resolutions and new Board Members. Brendan Martin and Amanda Dackowsky were each elected to 2 year terms. In addition,



Mike Telaak was re-elected as County President, and Dave Zilker was re-elected as County Vice President.



State Annual Meeting 2024

Mike Telaak and Mark Hansen represented Cattaraugus County at this year's State convention (StaCon). Resolutions that had been brought forth from counties across the state were voted on by the delegation, thus creating the 2025 NYFB Policy Book- also known as the road map for Farm Bureau staff when lobbying our representatives.





A Fireside Chat with the County President

Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

In this modern era, technology is advancing rapidly. As agricultural businesses we are usually trying to produce our product more efficiently or we are trying to sell the product in a unique way, as in a niche or value add. As a dairy farmer we cannot control how much we sell the milk for, but we can control how much it costs us to make it. Another way to think of this is all dairy farmers are in indirect competition with each other to make milk at a more efficient cost/hundred weight (cwt). One way to try and stay more efficient than the "competition" is to effectively integrate technology into your operation. This is not an easy thing to do, especially in agriculture where the applications usually lag the traditional business world. Critically thinking about your business and how new technologies can be implemented is a practice everyone should get used to. With the rapid progress of AI, it will be a short time before we see major impacts on the agricultural industry and the big winners will be the businesses and people that effectively integrate these technologies. The next 10 years are going to be very interesting; time to start getting your head around it now.

Michael Telaak
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President
716-969-7676

Want to contact your legislators directly?

Catt County Legislature:
Cattco.org/government/legislators

Joe Sempolinski, Dist 148
sempolinskij@nyassembly.gov

700 W State St
Olean, NY 14760
716-373-7103
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LOB
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518-455-5241
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Senator George M. Borrello
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716-664-4603
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188 State St
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Albany, NY 12247
518-455-3563
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Like us on Facebook:
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau

Your Farm Bureau

2025 Directors- Serving our county with pride!

President- Michael Telaak 716-969-7676.....Dairy
Vice Pres- Dave Zilker.....716-474-5859 Rural Landowner
Treasurer- Carmen Wright 716-676-2556.....Dairy/ Maple
Secretary- Margie Andrews 716-358-2280.....Dairy
Kevin Herman.....716-397-9183.....Dairy
Tom Graser.....716-353-5924.....Dairy
Don Wild.....716-969-4386...Livestock/Crops
Katie Hill(Pro-Ed Chair)...716-801-0796.....Dairy
Nathan Blesy.....716-435-7474.....Dairy
Mark Hansen.....716-474-6774.....Dairy
Amanda Dackowsky.....716-432-9871....Beef/Livestock
Brenden Martin.....716-801-2562.....Crops
Paige Williams-YFR Chair 716-353-5002.....Crops
NYFB Field Staff- Tim Bigham.....716-474-6585
District 1 Director- Lavern Warriner.....607-426-0521
Nationwide Insurance Rep- Christy Lincoln..716-713-4848

Newsletter Questions/Comments? Contact the editor,
Barb Blesy at n.blesy@gmail.com or 716-435-5400

Workers' Compensation Safety Group 486
1-800-342-4143, Press "4" • wcinfo@nyfb.org

Now Serving NYS Feed Mills and Feed Stores

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COMPETITIVE RATES & DEDICATED SUPPORT

*Eligibility for insurance is subject to the New York State Insurance Fund's underwriting requirements. Percentage is based on dividends paid 2019 through 2023. Dividends are not guaranteed. Continued membership in NYFB is required to participate in Safety Group 486. NYFB and its subsidiaries have no authority to bind coverage for any member.

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Life is stressful – and farming can often pile on the stress even more. FarmNet can help your farm in a number of ways, but did you know that they offer well-being counseling as well? Maybe its time you looked into it. We all need someone to talk to sometimes. Contact them at 1-800-547-FARM.

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!

★ FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH; 7:30PM

PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER

28 PARKSIDE DR

ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month. All members are welcome. We would love to hear your input!

★ LOBBY DAYS

DATE: MARCH 3RD & 4TH

PLACE: ALBANY, NY

Come speak to your legislators and down state legislators face to face about agriculture! Explain to them your needs and challenges and how you feel about pending legislation. No experience necessary! Training is provided.

★ AG LITERACY WEEK

DATE: MARCH 17TH -21ST

PLACE: AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEAR YOU!

We provide the book and the activity- you just need to go read the book to the kids and help them with the activity.

If you would like to read to kids in your district (or others) please let Katie Hill know.

(katie_voelker@live.com or 716-801-0796)

★ AG TRIVIA NIGHT

DATE: APRIL 12TH

PLACE: EAST OTTO FIRE HALL

8990 REED HILL RD, EAST OTTO, NY

TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:30

Start gathering your teams now! Do you have a business interested in being a sponsor or donating an item for the Chinese auction? Contact Michael Telaak at 716-969-7676 or mdtelaak@yahoo.com.

www.nyfb.org

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!

E-Lobby Today!

Go to NYFB.org to E-Lobby on the hot issues you feel strongly about! Many issues are available to lobby with just the click of a button!

Want to stay in the know? Make sure NY Farm Bureau has your current email address! (You can send your email address to tbigham@nyfb.org with the subject line "please add me to the nyfb mailing list"). NYFB sends out time sensitive emails about lobbying for various topics as they come up. Make sure you never miss sharing your opinion on an issue you care about!



4-Hers and FFA Students!

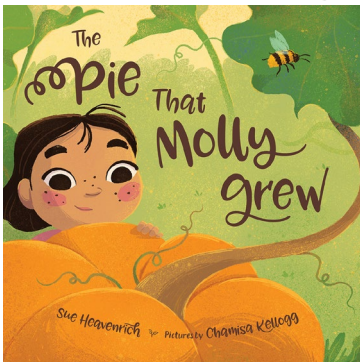


Is there a 4-Her in your life in need of a cash infusion to offset the cost of a new type of project? Is there an FFA student that needs help paying for a trip? Maybe we can help!

If you have kids that are eligible for these scholarships (all ages in 4-H or FFA are encouraged to apply), we give a maximum of \$200 per year per child that qualifies. That is great way to more than make your money back from your membership while still enjoying all the benefits of Farm Bureau. In addition, 4-H and FFA high school Juniors and Seniors can visit the NYFB web page to sign up for a FREE student membership which makes them eligible for this scholarship program even if their parents are not members!

The application requires your basic information, plus whatever ag experience you have, a 300-500 word essay and your involvement in activities. You must have a Family or Student Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Membership or be sponsored by a Cattaraugus County

Ag Literacy Week- Volunteers needed!



We need your help to reach as many elementary students in Cattaraugus County as possible! Last year our Ag Literacy team did an AMAZING job and read to about 1100 students in about 85 classrooms across Catt County! We would love to have your help this year. You would be reading a book (provided by us- and the classroom gets to keep the book when you're done reading it to them!) and helping a class do a related activity (also provided by us). You can choose to do one classroom or many! Just let Katie Hill know you're interested (katie_voelker@live.com)!

This year's book is The Pie Molly Grew by Sue Heavenrich. It is the story of a girl planting a pumpkin seed and following it all the way through from seed to seedling to leafy vine to ripe fruit to harvest and turning it into a pumpkin pie. Sue Heavenrich, the author, is a NY native from Tioga County.

Attn: Highschool Seniors!

NYFB Scholarship Deadline is **April 1st 2025**

The NYFB scholarship application is currently available at NYFB.org. Applicants will compete to win a \$250 scholarship from Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, a \$250 district level award, and on the state level NY Farm Bureau will be awarding one-time scholarships to the top two applicants statewide, \$3000 and \$2000.

Applicant Guidelines:

- 2025 graduating high school senior who will continue their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural field.
- Live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue
- Family Farm Bureau Membership or Student Farm Bureau Membership is required. (Student memberships can be obtained for free at nyfb.org)

On nyfb.org the scholarship can be found by clicking on the “Programs” tab, followed by the “Promotion and Education” tab and then the “scholarship” tab. Here a link to the application and instructions on how to fill out it out can be found. Don’t forget all submissions must be received by 11:59pm April 1st 2025 for consideration!



Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
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