

# Oneida County Farm Bureau

January 2025



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Farm Bureau members,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family enjoyed being together over the holidays. As we enter into 2025, it's a good time to reflect on that togetherness – not just in our personal lives, but togetherness in our agricultural communities as well.

Oneida County Farm Bureau was pleased to attend NYFB's State Annual Convention last month in Verona, NY, where a record crowd enthusiastically shared fellowship, education and new ideas. Most importantly, delegates from across the state came together in a spirited session on State Annual Meeting Day to vote on our 2025 public policy positions.

Some of our top legislative priorities include supporting critical funding for agricultural animal health; increasing funding for the state Farmworker Housing Program revolving loan fund; increasing and extending the farm workforce retention credit; supporting renewable energy policies that incorporate common sense timeframes; addressing transportation issues to facilitate the shipment of food products and farm equipment in New York State; establishing a New York State Equine Advisory Board; opposing the Temperature Extreme Mitigation (TEMP) act unless there is an exemption for agriculture; opposing legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants; and opposing Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that unduly burdens New York's food and wine manufacturing businesses.

As we get updates on state and federal legislation affecting NYS agriculture, we will update you in email communications, on our social media channels and in Grassroots.

As always, New York Farm Bureau is committed to promoting and defending agriculture. A recent example of that commitment is the passage of the Direct to Consumer bill, which offers distilleries and cideries the same shipping

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## NYFB TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

March 3, 2025 \* 5-7 p.m.

Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany

New York Farm Bureau will host its popular Taste of NY Reception at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The event brings together county Farm Bureau members, public officials and staff, and agricultural partners to showcase the diversity of NYS agriculture. This event is followed the next day with NYFB's Lobby Day at the Capitol in Albany on March 4.

Anyone interested in donating product for the Taste of NY Reception should contact Karen K. Howard at [cydney83@gmail.com](mailto:cydney83@gmail.com) or call 315-266-7935. Anyone interested in participating in Lobby Day should contact Lory van Lieshout at 315-363-9138.

**Photo:** At the March 2024 NYFB Taste of NY Reception, Governor Hochul (far right) and NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Richard Ball (center) visited the Oneida County Farm Bureau booth. Pictured with Gov. Hochul and Commissioner Ball is Oneida County Farm Bureau member Pat van Lieshout.



## 2025 NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2025 Legislative Priorities, a culmination of grassroots efforts that began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at the State Convention held in December. These priorities reflect the collective interest of our members and rural communities and will determine the focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead.

- Support critical funding for agricultural animal health (such as the Avian Disease Program), promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 25/26 state budget.
- Support a significant funding investment in the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science to forward its mission of collegiate agricultural education, research, and extension. This includes necessary funding to replace teaching resources, capital investment across the college, Cornell University Research Center, the Agricultural Experiment Station and other research facilities across the state.
- Increase funding for the NYS Homes and Community Renewal's Farmworker Housing Program revolving loan fund and increase the per-project cap from \$200,000 to \$400,000.
- Allow construction costs for farmworker housing to be included in the ongoing refundable investment tax credit for agriculture and provide reimbursement for all incurred expenses in a timelier manner.
- Increase and extend the farm workforce retention credit.
- Expand the state's 10-year real property tax exemption for farm buildings to include farm buildings used for the processing or marketing of agricultural products.
- Support funding for the NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health to do research and promote education on temperature-related working conditions before any legislation (such as the Temperature Extreme Mitigation Program Act) is passed.
- Allow farm breweries, cideries and distilleries to sell products at roadside farm markets, like farm wineries.
- Support legislation that would define agribusiness in New York State law.
- Support renewable energy policies that incorporate common-sense timeframes for adoption based upon grid capacity and the practical realities of electrification of New York State.
- Support legislation that would develop a Low Carbon Fuel Standard.
- Support addressing transportation issues to facilitate the shipment of food products and farm equipment in New York State, including addressing issues related to workforce development.
- Establish a New York State Equine Advisory Board to promote the horse industry in New York State.
- Support DEC's regulatory authority over pesticide registration in accordance with sound science and oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural chemical protectants.
- Oppose Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that does not require consumer responsibility for packaging they receive and that unduly burdens New York's food and farm beverage manufacturing businesses.

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### *Presidents Message Continued*

privileges as wineries. We fought long and hard for that bill, and our efforts ultimately proved successful.

However, we can't do it alone. Our members are a critical part of our legislative efforts. Please take part in e-lobbying, which only takes a few minutes and is easily found on our website, and monthly calls to action. We also encourage you to join us for the Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day on March 3 and 4 in Albany, one of the most important lobbying events of the year. Lawmakers from across the state must hear from us if we are to be successful.

Oneida County Farm Bureau is here to support our members and help with any local issues that may arise. Please reach out to me or to our board members if you need anything.

I wish you all the best in the year ahead.

Regards,

*Neil Collins*

Oneida County Farm Bureau President

# YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS NETWORKING EVENT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025

7 PM

Marble Hill Inn

4482 Marble Road, Oneida, NY



We invite all young farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness professionals (ages 21-35) for an evening of networking and connecting with others who share a passion for agriculture in Oneida County. Tyler Ford, Oneida County Young Farmers & Ranchers Chair, will discuss the legislative political process, how Farm Bureau supports and enhances that process and how you can get involved! You DO NOT have to be a Farm Bureau member to attend. Spouses/significant others are welcome!

Enjoy non-alcoholic beverages and wings courtesy of Oneida County Farm Bureau. Alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase, and attendees are welcome to order from the menu.

*Let us know if you plan to attend!* Email Tyler at [tford4440@gmail.com](mailto:tford4440@gmail.com)

## ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU ATTENDS STATE ANNUAL MEETING



**Photo above:** Oneida County Farm Bureau StaCon delegates Neil Collins (l) and Larry Hobin (r) review sections of the policy development document during the New York Farm Bureau annual business meeting.

**Photo right:** Oneida County Farm Bureau members enjoy dinner and discussion during New York Farm Bureau's 2024 State Convention held in Verona.

Oneida County Farm Bureau helped chart the course for agriculture's future at the New York Farm Bureau 2024 State Convention (StaCon) December 3-5 at Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona. This year's theme was "Farming Forward: Leadership, Innovation, Diversification. Workshops and an engaging program were offered to help NYFB members, farmers, and agricultural professionals better plan for the future. Member delegates also voted on public policy positions that the state organization will advocate for the 2025 year in Albany and Washington, D.C.



## ANNUAL AG-TRIVIA & RAFFLE EVENT



The 8th Annual Ag-Trivia and Raffle Event was held Friday, Dec. 13 at Harts Hill in Whitesboro, NY. There were raffle baskets available, and of course, trivia! We couldn't have done it without our sponsors, donors and attendees - thank you! All money raised will benefit youth programming and scholarships in Oneida County. Thank you one and all!



*The winning team!*

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



**ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- PRESIDENT:** Neil Collins..... 315-240-8966
- VICE PRESIDENT:** Larry Hobin, Jr ..... 315-790-2040
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 Lory van Lieshout..... 315-363-9138
- FIELD ADVISOR:** John Wagner ..... 315-761-9770
- COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES**  
 Felicia Dougherty..... 518-431-5650  
 Jill Williamson ..... 518-431-5670

The board usually meets on the third Monday of the month at the CCE of Oneida in Oriskany.

\*Must be a New York Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Proof of membership is required. A valid member email address is required for eligibility. Discounts are subject to change without notice. Check out the savings on the following equipment categories; commercial mowing, residential mowing, utility vehicles, tractors, and compact construction. <https://www.deere.com/en/rewards/equipment-discounts/>