

# Cayuga County Farm Bureau

March 2025



## 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.

Cayuga County Farm Bureau was pleased to attend NYFB's State Annual Convention this past December 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

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## NYFB TASTE OF NY RECEPTION & LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau hosted its popular Taste of NY Reception at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center the evening of March 3. The event brings together county Farm Bureau members, public officials and staff, and agricultural partners to showcase the diversity of New York State agriculture.

New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day took place this past Tuesday, March 4. It's a day when Farm Bureau members from across the state come to Albany and meet with elected representatives. Members come to advocate on behalf of policies which are decided and voted on at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in December.

**Photo:** Farm Bureau members from Cortland, Ontario, Seneca and Cayuga meeting with Assemblymember Jeff Gallahan to discuss issues of critical importance to farmers and agribusinesses during New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day. Seated front left is Cayuga County Farm Bureau member Dustin Young.



## 2025 NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2025 Legislative Priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which 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.

### CAYUGA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT HOLDS 54TH ANNUAL SPRING TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING SALE

The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District is now accepting orders for their 54th Annual Spring Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale. As in the past, the District is offering a variety of New York grown conifers, hardwoods, shrubs, and groundcovers. These seedlings, transplants and other plants are a cost effective, environmentally friendly way to prevent erosion, improve water quality in our lakes and streams, to promote wildlife in your area, as well as create noise and visual buffers, and both snow and wind breaks. The Conservation District will be taking orders through Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Pickup date will be Friday, May 9, 2025. Supplies are limited, so order early for the best selection.

To get an order form and description brochure, call the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District at (315)252-4171, ext. 4, or email us at: [cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org](mailto:cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org).

We are available Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Order forms and online ordering are also available at our website: <http://www.cayugaswcd.org>.



## NYFB AGRICULTURAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AVAILABLE



New York high school seniors who are graduating and interested in pursuing a career related to agriculture can apply for New York Farm Bureau's Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Eligible students can use the financial award for college or advanced training in the skilled trades.

Visit the link to apply: [bit.ly/NYFB-scholarship](https://bit.ly/NYFB-scholarship)

### **Eligibility requirements:**

- 2025 graduating high school seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career connected to the agricultural industry. This includes advancing their education through college or pursuing advanced training in the skilled trades.
- Must 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. Students can join for free as student members by using this link: [www.nyfb.org/membership](https://www.nyfb.org/membership).
- Applicants under the age of 18 must also include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.

*For more information, email [proed@nyfb.org](mailto:proed@nyfb.org) or call 1-800-342-4143.*

### **NEW YORK FARM BUREAU BREWS**

As part of a campaign to raise money for local food banks, New York Farm Bureau asked local breweries to contribute toward the cause. What was developed was a beer, specifically a cream ale, which has been canned under a New York Farm Bureau label. New York Farm Bureau cream ale will be available for purchase soon with all monies raised going towards feeding local families. In total, eight breweries answered the call to craft New York Farm Bureau's signature cream ale. Local brewery Lunkenheimer Craft Brewing Company, located in Weedsport, New York, is one of the breweries that stepped up. We appreciate their generosity and support!



### *President's Message Continued*

of that commitment is the passage of the Direct to Consumer bill, which offers breweries and cideries the same shipping 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.

Cayuga 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,

*Tad Patterson*


Cayuga County Farm Bureau President

### **MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!**

Your membership MATTERS. Whether you work professionally in the agriculture industry or simply appreciate and understand the value of agriculture in your community, Farm Bureau is open to you.

Membership directly IMPACTS the work Cayuga County Farm Bureau does for you. From supporting agricultural education programs, fighting for fair taxes, defending landowner rights, or ensuring that new policies allow families to continue to farm, we're here to work on your behalf.




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

## **CAYUGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Cayuga County Farm Bureau meets on the second  
 Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at various  
 locations throughout the county.

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