

Onondaga County Farm Bureau

April 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I've been thinking a lot about change, which seems to be occurring daily – and quickly – on both state and national levels. The NYFB public policy team is hard at work as they follow ever-evolving issues critical to agriculture and meet with elected representatives in New York and in Washington, D.C. With the new administration in place, it is more important than ever to make our voice heard. And, as recent headlines show, issues like tariffs mean it is also critical to maintain a close working relationship with American Farm Bureau, which fights tirelessly for New York farmers and farmers across the nation.

With change comes uncertainty and, sometimes, fear. While I can't speculate how long the new tariffs will be in place nor exactly how they will affect various agricultural commodities across New York, it's fair to say that higher tariffs are a significant concern for farmers everywhere. NYFB President David Fisher shares this concern and has been discussing the topic regularly with AFBF and fellow Farm Bureaus. Recently, NYFB released this statement:

“The enactment of higher federal tariffs with Canada, Mexico and China is an issue of great concern to the agricultural community in New York. Our farmers are already dealing with razor-thin margins. If these tariffs persist, they may be faced with rising costs of products like potash, a key ingredient in fertilizer, as nearly all of it is imported from Canada. Meanwhile, New York State is number two in the nation for apple production. If Washington State, the number-one producer, cannot export apples, they may sell them in New York at a fraction of the normal cost, which would undercut our farmers' profit margin even further. These, along with retaliatory tariffs, are just a few examples illustrating the trickle-down effects of higher tariffs. U.S. dairy farmers exported nearly \$9 billion globally in 2024, with the largest portion of these exports going to Canada, Mexico and China.

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NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day took place 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 left: Onondaga County Farm Bureau members Christina Kohler (l), Brian Reeves (2nd from l), Beth Fry (r) and Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli's staff meet during New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day.

Photo right: Onondaga County Farm Bureau members Brian Reeves (l) and Beth Fry (r) met with Senator Christopher Ryan (c) to discuss issues of critical importance to farmers and agribusinesses during New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day.



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 time frames 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.

Presidents Message Continued

While we support fair trade, our goal is always to provide affordable and accessible food for all New Yorkers while protecting our agricultural markets and lowering input costs for our farmers.”

But tariffs are just one of many challenges farmers face daily. We continue to fight for a fair Farm Bill, ag labor and disaster relief. And, with several tax provisions critical to farmers expiring at the end of the year, we are joining AFBF to urge Congress to renew provisions like Section 199A, which allows families to deduct part of their business income.

We must be vigilant, and we must speak to our elected officials with an authentic voice. Share your stories with me and with NYFB, who will in turn share your stories with legislators. Support Farm Bureau in any way you can – because together, we are stronger.

Christina Hudson-Kohler

Onondaga County Farm Bureau President

ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED



Onondaga County Farm Bureau is dedicated to supporting the growth of agriculture and is thrilled to announce the availability of two \$1,000 scholarships once again this year as part of this commitment. These scholarships are available to students who are passionate

about pursuing a career in agriculture and who are already enrolled or plan to enroll in a college program related to agriculture for the Fall 2025 or Spring 2026 semesters.

Applications along with submission instructions can be obtained by going to the following link: nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/onondaga-county. You will find the application toward the bottom of the page.

All applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2025. Winners will be selected by August 1, 2025.

This scholarship opportunity is open to students who meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must reside in Onondaga County, New York.
- Either the applicant or a parent/guardian must be

a current member of the Onondaga County Farm Bureau.

- The scholarship is available to students majoring in agriculture-related fields, which can include, but are not limited to, dairy, equine studies, horticulture, natural resources and conservation, and aquaculture.
- Applicant must provide a Letter of Reference with the application.

Onondaga County Farm Bureau will award two \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students. Winners will receive their scholarship check upon providing the following:

- Winners must provide proof of enrollment in an agriculture-related program, such as grades from the first semester.
- Recipients must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 to remain eligible for the scholarship.
- Scholarship winners must ensure their Onondaga County Farm Bureau dues are paid for the current year.

For questions or further information, applicants can call 315-391-4290.



MEMBERS MEET WITH CONGRESSMAN MANNION

Members of the Onondaga County Farm Bureau were joined by our neighbors from Oneida County Farm Bureau as we met with our new Congressman John Mannion in Utica to discuss AFBF national legislative priorities. Congressman Mannion is a member of the U.S. House Ag Committee.

NEW NYFB ICE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

"The Farmers' Guide to Immigration Worksite Enforcement: An Employer's Rights and Responsibilities" is now for sale.

Our newly updated volume provides an overview of the myriad federal laws and regulations related to ICE and immigration laws, including your property rights. Practical information includes:

- Definitions of "probable cause," "detention," "border search," "roving patrol" and more, plus an explanation of the general authority of ICE officers and their authority to conduct searches
- Permissible conduct by an ICE/CBP officer and what to do after an ICE/CBP raid
- Tips on developing a program of corporate immigration compliance for your farm, including conducting regular internal I-9 audits to ensure all

forms are complete and accurate; developing an I-9 compliance policy with protocols on storage and retention; and educating your HR personnel and managers about Form I-9 compliance

The book is offered for \$50 per copy for members* and \$100 per copy for non-members.

Enter this link: tinyurl.com/mmmwr9mk into your internet browser. Members must log in to get the member discount.

*Enterprise members who pay for two or more memberships are eligible for a free guide! Please call NYFB Member Support at 1-800-342-4143 to receive one free copy.

New York Farm Bureau
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 Onondaga County Farm Bureau



ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Onondaga County Board of Directors usually meet on the fourth Monday of every month, except December, at Heritage Hill, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY.

