

# Oneida County Farm Bureau

April 2025



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

## 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.

*Continued on Page 2*

*President's message continued*

## NYFB TASTE OF NY RECEPTION

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.

**Photo:** Oneida County Farm Bureau's NYFB Taste of NY Reception booth was visited by Governor Hochul, Commissioner of Agriculture Richard Ball and New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher.



## NEW YORK FARM BUREAU LOBBY DAY

New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day took place on 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 that are decided and voted on at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in December.

**Pictured (l-r):** Members of Otsego and Oneida County Farm Bureau present Assemblymember Brian Miller with the Circle of Friends Award, which is based on a lawmaker's support of New York agriculture and Farm Bureau, during New York Farm Bureau Lobby Day held recently in Albany, NY.



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.

Regards,

*Neil Collins*

Oneida County Farm Bureau President



**ONEIDA COUNTY  
DAIRY PROMOTION**

**BANQUET  
SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025  
DELTA LAKE INN**



**Cowtails at 1:00pm**

**Lunch at 1:30 pm**

**RSVP: April 6, 2025**

**to Joanie Smith**

**(315) 941-2906**

**Cost per Adult \$30 Children 5-12 \$15**

**Under 5 Free**

**1 Free Ticket per Oneida County Dairy Farm Family  
KNOW SOMEONE THAT HAS GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND**

**FOR THE ONEIDA COUNTY DAIRY INDUSTRY?**

Nominations for the following awards are needed no later than April 1, 2025

- Silver Cow: This would be for a Non Farmer or Non Agricultural Business
- Oneida County Dairy Farmer of the Year
- Agricultural Business of the Year

**Those interested in joining Oneida County Dairy Promotion as an  
Ambassador or have any questions regarding nominations or joining**

**OCDP please contact**

**MaryJane Burkett at (315)527-2886**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MAY 30, 2025**



**Oneida County Farm Fest  
DiNitto Farms**

## 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 Oneida 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.

## BRINGING “THE PIE THAT MOLLY GREW” TO CLASSROOMS

Once again, Agriculture Literacy Week brought the celebration of agriculture into classrooms across New York State. This year, Agriculture Literacy Week was held March 17-21 aimed to help children in kindergarten through third grade understand where their food comes from. This is achieved by introducing them to a carefully selected agriculture-themed book, which is read in classrooms statewide.

In Oneida County, local schoolchildren participated in the celebration with the help of volunteers who read this year’s featured book, *The Pie That Molly Grew*. Written by Sue Heavenrich, a New York author from Tioga County, and illustrated by Chamisa Kellogg, the book follows the journey of Molly as she grows a pumpkin from a single seed. With Molly’s tender care and attention, the story highlights each stage of the pumpkin’s growth—from seed to sprout, leaves, and finally the fruit on the vine. In the end, Molly turns her beautiful pumpkin into a delicious pie, offering young readers a captivating glimpse into the farm-to-table process.

The Oneida County Farm Bureau is proud to sponsor the purchase of these books, ensuring that they are distributed to classrooms, school libraries, and community libraries throughout the county. This allows children to continue exploring and enjoying Molly’s pumpkin-growing adventure long after the reading sessions. Last year, Agriculture Literacy Week saw 3,100 books donated to schools and libraries across New York State, reaching over 103,000 children and giving them the opportunity to learn about agriculture’s role in everyday life.



**Photo above:** NYFB County Manager John Wagner presents this year’s Ag in the Classroom book to Cathi Brewer of the Sherrill Library as part of National Ag Literacy Week.

**Photo below :** Oneida County Farm Bureau member Karen-K Howard reads *The Pie That Molly Grew* to students at the Paideia Homeschool Co-Op in Kirkland.



**Photo left:** Oneida County Farm Bureau president Neil Collins (center) along with Congressman John Mannion (second from left) present this year’s Ag Literacy Week featured book *The Pie That Molly Grew* to staff at the Utica Public Library.



### MANNION MEETS TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURE ISSUES

Members of the Oneida County Farm Bureau were joined by our neighbors from Onondaga 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 York Farm Bureau  
 159 Wolf Road, Suite 300  
 Albany, NY 12205  
 Oneida County Farm Bureau



**ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- PRESIDENT:** Neil Collins ..... 315-240-8966
  - VICE PRESIDENT:** Larry Hobin, Jr ..... 315-790-2040
  - AREA 1** (Boonville, Ava, Western, Rome, Lee, Forestport)  
 Tyler Wrisley ..... 315-942-2504
  - AREA 2** (Remsen, Steuben, Floyd, Trenton, Deerfield, Marcy)  
 Kathy Gregory-Salvo ..... 315-796-2109
  - AREA 3** (Camden, Florence, Annsville, Vienna, Verona)  
 Pat van Lieshout ..... 315-363-9138
  - AREA 4** (Westmoreland, Whitestown, Utica, Augusta, Kirkland, Vernon)  
 Austin Elliott ..... 315-404-9109
  - AREA 5** (Marshall, Sangerfield, New Hartford, Paris, Bridgewater)  
 Vacant
  - AT LARGE:** Kevin Angell ..... 315-361-5430
  - AT LARGE:** John Collins ..... 315-750-9179
  - AT LARGE:** Keith James ..... 315-264-0415
  - AT LARGE:** Colburn Sherwood ..... 315-404-8774
  - PRO-ED CHAIR:** Karen-K Howard ..... 315-266-7935
  - YF&R CHAIR:** Tyler Ford ..... 315-240-6095
  - OFFICE MANAGER/TREASURER**
  - 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.

Workers' Compensation  
**Safety Group 486**

**Now serving NYS  
 meat processing  
 operations**

**SAFETY GROUP 486 BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- Dividend payments averaging 42%\*
- Competitive rates & reduced premiums
- Dedicated support & claims management



New York Farm Bureau  
 Member Services, Inc.

Call (800) 342-4143 / press 4  
 Email [winfo@nyfb.org](mailto:winfo@nyfb.org)

\*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.