

Monroe 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. 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.”

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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 which are decided and voted on at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in December. Monroe County Farm Bureau had a very busy day as they visited with 10 representatives that cover Monroe County.

Pictured: Monroe County Farm Bureau members joined members from Ontario, Livingston & Wayne counties to discuss important agricultural issues with Senator Pamela Helming.



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. Nearly 500 people, including about 100 legislators, attended the Taste of New York Reception. The event featured 85 tables highlighting the rich, diverse agricultural market in New York and included products such as beef, microgreens, honey, ice cream, wines, craft brews, produce, cheese, oysters, maple products and much more. Monroe County Farm Bureau's booth passed out samples of Upstate Farms milk.

Photo (l-r): Monroe County Farm Bureau members Marilyn DeMeyer, Natasha Sutherland and Robert Colby with Senator Robert Ort, Senator George Borrello, and Assemblymember Stephen Hawley at the Monroe County Farm Bureau booth during the NYFB Taste of NY Reception.



President's Message, Continued

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,

Jenny Lundberg

Monroe County Farm Bureau President



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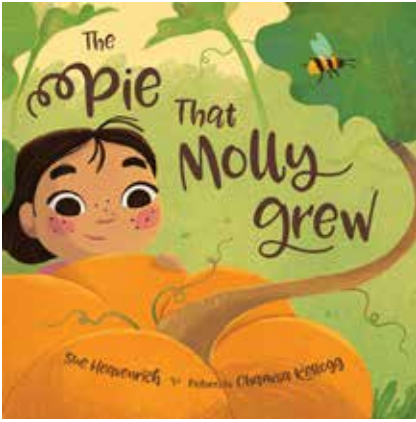


EUCHRE IN MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County Farm Bureau euchre tournaments have been taking place during the winter months to help raise money for NYFB's Legal Defense Fund. Euchre is a card game popular in Europe, Canada, the Mid-West and now Upstate New York! **The next tournament is Sunday, April 27. Dinner at 5 p.m.; Cards at 6 p.m. \$10 per person.** All are welcome to attend! For more information call 315-604-0411.

Pictured: Participants at the Euchre Tournament held in March at the home of Robert & Darcy Colby in Spencerport.

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 and 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 Monroe 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 Monroe County Farm Bureau is proud to sponsor the purchase of 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.

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 Monroe 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.

TASTE OF MONROE COUNTY RECEPTION

The Taste of Monroe County Reception for Monroe County legislators was held in February. Great turnout and amazing food! Thank you to all who were able to attend.



Photo left: A great turnout for the Taste of Monroe County Reception



Photo right: Madison County Legislators Sean H. McCabe (l), representing the 6th Legislative District encompassing the eastern and southern portion of the Town of Greece, and Mercedes Vazquez Simmons (r), representing the 22nd Legislative District in the Northeast Quadrant of the City of Rochester. Both took the time to come and enjoy the Taste of Monroe County Reception.



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Monroe County Farm Bureau



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Monroe County Farm Bureau meets on the first
Thursday of the month usually via Zoom.