

Madison County Farm Bureau News

July 2025



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that this year's legislative session is behind us, we can take a moment to reflect on the wins we've helped accomplish for agriculture around the state. Thanks to members who are actively engaged in the advocacy process, we helped extend the farm workforce retention tax credit to 2029, added \$5 million to the farmworker housing revolving loan fund and maintained level funding for Nourish New York and Farm to School programs. We also helped pass a bill that exempts processors of syrup made from tree sap or honey from certain licensing requirements.

Equally important, if not more so, are the bills we helped stop from passing, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, the "Good Food" bill and the Temperature Extreme Mitigation Plan (TEMP) Act.

None of this would have been possible without grassroots policy, a central tenet of New York Farm Bureau and all County Farm Bureaus.

When we talk about "grassroots policy," we're not just using buzzwords. We rely on our members to be our eyes and ears, no matter the commodity or the size of the operation. When agriculture-related problems arise, the first step a farmer often takes is to make contact with their local County Farm Bureau — and, sometimes, that step can lead to new policy.

For those of you new to the policy-making process or who need a refresher, it works like this:

- A member has an idea that would improve agriculture. They tell their County Farm Bureau president or board member and submit their idea to the Policy Development Committee.

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REGISTRATION OPEN

STACON 25

NAVIGATING YOUR AG FUTURE

December 2-4, 2025
Turning Stone Resort Casino





ZIPPY DUVALL
PRESIDENT, AFBF
Town Hall





MAUREEN BALLATORI
KEYNOTE
AI in Agriculture

FEATURING

MEMBER SUBMITTED WORKSHOPS

✓ An Attorney's Eye View	✓ Planting Your Digital Seeds	✓ NY's Energy Plan: Can a Flawed Plan be Fixed
✓ Grants 101	✓ Solar, Land and Rural Economic Development	✓ NYS Agritourism Support
✓ Managing Conflict in Farm Family Businesses	✓ The Basics of Agricultural Assessment	✓ Co-Creating Events
✓ Advocacy with NYFB	✓ Making Dairy Farms More Insurable	✓ Vertical Hydroponics

Register by
Sept 30 for
Early Bird
Pricing



www.eventleaf.com/e/StaCon25



Call Member Services: 800-342-4143





OPEN FARM DAY JULY 26, 2025

Experience a day of discovery in Madison County on Saturday, July 26, 2025!

Open Farm Day is a free, family-friendly event where you can tour local farms, meet the people behind your food, see animals up close, and explore the world of agriculture.

Each year, farms across Madison County open their doors to the public for Open Farm Day, offering visitors a unique look into local agriculture. Participating farms may offer a variety of activities such as tours, product tastings, demonstrations, animal interactions, and educational displays. Some locations feature produce stands or handmade goods for sale, while others offer opportunities to learn directly from farmers about their work and stewardship of the land. No matter where you visit, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for our local food system and the people behind it.

Organized and coordinated by Cornell Cooperative Extension Madison County (CCE Madison County), this day is a celebration of our vibrant farming community and you're invited!

For more information go to: visitopenfarmday.com



MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Dylan Snyder is awarded the Madison County Farm Bureau scholarship award at the Morrisville-Eaton FFA Banquet.

Snyder was recognized as the local county winner of the New York Farm Bureau scholarship contest, he received a monetary award of \$250 from the Madison County Farm Bureau.

President's Message continued

- The county considers the idea and makes a recommendation.
- The member attends a County Annual Meeting to seek approval of their idea. If approved, the idea becomes county policy and is submitted to the NYFB Resolutions Committee.
- The Resolutions Committee reviews the member's policy recommendations; if the idea is accepted, it goes on to the State Annual Meeting.
- At the State Annual Meeting, members across the state vote on the policy. If approved, the idea becomes state policy.

Some state policies go on to become national policy via American Farm Bureau.

No idea is too simple or too complex to be

considered — but if you don't share your ideas, we won't be aware of them. Please, lean on Madison County Farm Bureau for help. Attend meetings to learn what's going on in our community, to help others find solutions or to simply work together towards a common goal.

As the policy development process begins, remember: Your voices are the primary factor in our decision-making process. ***Save the Date*** - Madison County's Policy Development meeting is scheduled for September 10th at our regularly scheduled board meeting. Let's come together and share ideas. If you have a specific issue you would like to discuss, please contact me directly at 315-396-1549.

Greg Coon

Madison County Farm Bureau President

MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Over 50 members of the Madison County Farm Bureau were in attendance at this year's summer event hosted by the Madison County Farm Bureau at Farmstead 1868.

Members gathered at Farmstead 1868 for a tour of the lavender fields and farm stand and learned more from Monica about the burgeoning industry.

Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, along with salads were provided by Farm Bureau. The Madison County Dairy Ambassadors served up ice cream.

Thank you to Monica Cody and family for welcoming our Farm Bureau members and hosting this event!



Photos beginning top left and going clockwise:

Monica Cody of Farmstead 1868 describes the lavender growing process to a group of Farm Bureau members as Colette Jackson listens intently.

Dinner for the evening served in the Farmstead 1868 event barn.

Members of the Madison County Dairy Ambassador program served up delicious ice cream sundae's in recognition of June is Dairy Month.

Touring and discussion of the lavender fields at Farmstead 1868.



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

Madison County Farm Bureau

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NYFB.ORG

Scan to find county manager

MADISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Greg Coon	315-396-1549
VICE PRESIDENT: Kyle Hale	315-761-2717
Gina Hennington	631-662-7324
Scott O'Mara	315-243-6489
Jo Stephenson	315-244-6151
PRO-ED CHAIR: Johanna Bossard	315-440-1044
YF&R CHAIR: Chelsey Mahany.....	315-480-6849
COUNTY MANAGER: John Wagner	315-761-9770

NYFB COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES:

Jill Williamson.....	518-431-5670
Felicia Dougherty	518-431-5650

Madison County Farm Bureau meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at CCE in Morrisville, NY.