

# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

August 2025



## 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.
- The county considers the idea and makes a recommendation.

Continued on Page 3

## It's Annual Meeting Time!

Mark your Calendar for  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
at



**CREEKSTONE FARMS EVENT CENTER**  
11040 Fuller Road, Adams Center, NY

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau will have a joint county meeting with Lewis and Oswego County Farm Bureaus. We're excited to have as our featured speaker Amanda Freund, who has recently appeared on Shark Tank, with biodegradable plant pots made of composted manure. *Stay tuned for further details!*



## PREVENT PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN!

### DID YOU KNOW...

The Teledyne Flir thermal imaging camera can help diagnose potential electrical or mechanical problems and identify hot spots that could lead to a fire.

NYFB members can try it out for FREE as part of our field trial. Just contact the NYFB county manager in your area to reserve a trial camera.

Ask how you can save 15% on any new Teledyne Flir thermal imaging device today!

**Ask how you can SAVE 15% on any new Teledyne Flir thermal imaging device today!**



1-800-342-4143, Press "0"  
NYFB.ORG

Scan to find  
county manager



## FFA BLUE JACKETS AWARDED

The iconic Blue Jacket is a symbol of belonging and pride within the FFA organization. As a part of the FFA Official Dress, these jackets represent professional growth, career success, and agricultural advocacy. Jefferson County Farm Bureau recognizes the importance of students gaining the full experience and benefit of being an FFA member and was pleased to once again be able to provide FFA Blue Jacket Awards to deserving members throughout the County.

**Photo upper right:** Indian River FFA member and Blue Jacket Award recipient, Owen Clark (center) with FFA Chapter President Dillen Narrigan (left) presented by Austin Weaver (right)

**Photo lower left:** NYFB State Board member Adam Miner (l), presents an FFA Blue Jacket Award to South Jefferson FFA member Adelaide Tyo (r).jwi

**Photo lower right:** Jay Matteson (l) Jefferson County Farm Bureau board member, along with an officer of the Carthage High School FFA present an FFA Blue Jacket Award to Carthage High School FFA member Mason Cummings (r).



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Your membership matters. Membership directly impacts the work Jefferson 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 recently launched it's "Generations Strong" Membership Campaign for 2026. The "Generations Strong" campaign will emphasize the multi-faceted benefits of NYFB membership, including:

- **Advocacy:** Continued lobbying efforts on critical issues impacting New York agriculture, from land use and environmental regulations to labor and economic development.
- **Education and Resources:** Providing members with access to valuable information, training, and programs to help them navigate the ever-evolving agricultural landscape.
- **Community and Networking:** Fostering connections among farmers, agribusiness professionals, and rural residents, creating a powerful network of support and shared knowledge.
- **Member Savings:** New programs members can save money with like Dungarees, Office Depot, KEY Apparel, FieldClock, and Cornell CALS online certificate classes

This campaign is an invitation to everyone who cares about the future of food, fibers, and farming in New York to join us. Whether you're a lifelong farmer, a new producer, an agricultural student, or simply someone who appreciates the importance of local agriculture, there's a place for you in Farm Bureau. The organization encourages all current members to share their stories and help spread the word about the benefits of joining the New York Farm Bureau.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TWO JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Photo left:** Jefferson County Farm Bureau President, Kyle Hafemann (l) congratulates Joseph Canzonier (c) and his father, Jay Canzonier (r). A Senior from Belleville Henderson High School, Joseph is planning on attending Cornell University to study Ag Science and Policy.



**Photo Right:** Indian River High School Scholarship recipient, Jack Countryman (c) is congratulated by Jefferson County Farm Bureau President Kyle Hafemann (2nd from left). Jack will be heading to the North American Lineman Technical School where he will study to be an Electrical Lineman. Pictured with Jack are grandfather, Gary McKeever (l) and mom, Kelly Countryman (r).

### JEFFERSON COUNTY DAIRY PARADE

The 2025 Jefferson County Dairy Parade took place on Friday, June 6 in Watertown, NY and celebrated all things ag. We can't thank our volunteers enough who came together to decorate and staff the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and Belleville Henderson FFA Float. As always, our float featured a friend of the bovine persuasion!



### President's Message continued

- 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 Jefferson 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. Plan on joining us at our next Board Meeting for Policy Development Discussion being held September 3 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at SNPartners, 20897 Alexander Drive, Watertown. The QR Code to the right will get you to the New York Farm Bureau 2026 Policy Development Forum to start the ball rolling. Let's come together and share ideas. If you have a specific issue you would like to discuss, please contact me directly at 315-778-6457.

*Kyle Hafemann*

Jefferson County Farm Bureau President



The above QR Code will  
access the NYFB 2026  
Policy Development  
Forum



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

This issue of Jefferson County Farm Bureau  
Newsletter is sponsored by:



## Champlain Valley Equipment

*Your Source for Equipment & Parts*

### Watertown Location

22537 Murrock Cir  
Watertown, NY 13601  
P: 315-788-1115

### Canton Location

6207 US Rte 11  
Canton, NY 13617  
P: 315-379-9119

*[champlainvalleyequipment.com](http://champlainvalleyequipment.com)*

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Kyle Hafemann..... 315-778-6457

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Michael Kiechle.... 315-778-8110

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice PRESIDENT:** Fred Matthews 315-658-2351

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Devon Shelmidine 315-486-8959

Jay Canzonier ..... 315-523-0760

Kirby Klock..... 315-405-9723

Jay Matteson..... 315-783-2251

Adam Miner..... 315-775-3774

Austin Weaver ..... 607-592-3149

**PRO-ED CHAIR:** Tedra Bean..... 315-783-7067

**YF&R CHAIR:** Joseph Canzonier ..... N/A

**COUNTY MANAGER:** John Wagner... 315-761-9770

### **NYFB COUNTY SUPPORT OFFICES:**

Jill Williamson..... 518-431-5670

Felicia Dougherty ..... 518-431-5650

Jefferson County Farm Bureau meets on the  
first Wednesday of each month (except June and  
December) at Cazenovia Equipment in Watertown.