

Oneida 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.

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ONEIDA COUNTY 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. Oneida 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 an FFA Blue Jacket Awards to

Adirondack FFA student Adelyn Capron (upper photo left) and Waterville Central School District student Jace Eisenhut (lower photo left) pictured with his sister, Julianna Eisenhut.

ONEIDA COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Waterville Central School District student, Allyson Ford (photo right) was recently awarded a monetary scholarship by Oneida County Farm Bureau. Allyson plans on attending either SUNY Delhi or SUNY Alfred to study Veterinary Science.



NEW YORK FARM BUREAU POLICY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION FORUM 2026

This forum explores several emerging issues relevant to agriculture in New York and the U.S. Please review these topics and bring this to your county Farm Bureau policy development meeting and County Annual Meeting this summer and fall as a jumping off point for discussion in your county. These issues are only suggestions and unique ideas generated from your county Farm Bureau and should be an important part of your consideration. These questions are also available on www.nyfb.org and in the July/August issue of Grassroots.

STATE TOPICS

- Should there be tax incentives and grants that support the use of agrivoltaics? What should be the definition of agrivoltaics?
- Should the state continue to permit the spreading of biosolids on farmland? Should testing (for PFAs, heavy metals, etc.) of biosolids and land be required? What liability concerns do farmers have when it comes to PFAs being found in the soils and the reason for PFAs being there?
- Would you support policy that would change the agricultural districts program to being overseen by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM)?
- What policy statements should NYFB have on the use of nuclear energy? Would you support establishing new nuclear energy plants in your communities? What are your concerns? Should the focus be on refurbishing older fuel facilities?
- Would you support food safety and quality date labeling requirements?
- Would you support creation of a check-off program without growers passing a referendum?
- Do you want to continue to push for CDL exemption or are the F & G endorsements working? What changes could be made to the F & G endorsements that would make things better for you?
- What policy stance would you like to take on overweight permits?
- Would you support policy that would add to the definition of agritourism that no more than a certain percentage of your income can come from agritourism/tourism activities in order to qualify for an agricultural assessment? What percentage threshold would be right? No more than 50% or 25%?
- Should New York have a Producer Responsibility Program for tires?
- Do you think changes should be made to how the New York Farm Viability Institute grant program

funding is managed? What changes should be made to this process?

NATIONAL POLICY TOPICS

NYFB members are encouraged to review the federal policy book to determine if any existing federal policies need to be amended or added/deleted to be more reflective of changing agricultural issues. Please consider any federal issues that have impacted you the most over the past year from USDA programs, labor, commodity prices, crop insurance, specialty crop needs, agrochemical, organic standards, etc., are there policy changes needed to better address these issues. The federal policy book is available online at: <https://www.nyfb.org/advocacy/legislative-affairs/priority-issues>.

- Should our policy address the existence or regulation of cryptocurrencies? From your perspective, how should cryptocurrency be regulated?
- Does our national policy need more explicit policy on what branch has jurisdiction over tariffs? Does there need to be a check and balance system between the legislative and executive branch when making decisions on tariffs? From your perspective, how should the policy be clarified?
- We have conflicting policy; we oppose the sale of some kinds of public lands, but also support transfer and disposal. Should our policy be clarified regarding the sale and transfer of federal lands? From your perspective, how should the policy be clarified?



AUGUST TWILIGHT TOUR

Leon Atwell's Farm - 9628 Prospect Rd
Remsen

Thursday, August 21 - 6:30pm - 8:00 pm

RSVP to Marylynn at mrm7@cornell.edu OR
via text (315) 368-8603



BOONVILLE-ONEIDA COUNTY FAIR

The Oneida County Boonville Fair was held July 22 thru 27 and Oneida County Farm Bureau took first place in the float division!!!

We'd like to thank the following for their contributions toward our winning float! Madison County Farm Bureau, Candella's Farm & Greenhouses, Ben Simons & Simons Family Farm, Humphrey's Farm, Collins Creamery, Olney's, Kraft Heinz, Chobani, Evans Equipment Co., Cabot, Tibbitts Bros. Farm Stand. Thank you to all for your time and/or contributions to help us achieve our winning parade float. Whether it

was goodies you donated to be handed out along the parade route, or your time helping to prepare the float and the booth under the grandstand, we really appreciate it! Thank you.

President's Message Continued

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.
- The member attends a County Annual Meeting
- 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 Oneida 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 our Policy Development meeting scheduled for Monday, September 15 at CCE Oneida on Second Street in Oriskany, NY. Let's come together and share ideas. If you have a specific issue you would like to discuss, please contact me directly at mapleman2012@gmail.com.

Regards,

Neil Collins

Oneida County Farm Bureau President

ANNUAL MOHAWK VALLEY FARM TOUR

Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon's Annual Mohawk Valley Farm Tour was held recently, where state legislators, local officials, agricultural leaders, and community partners came together to walk the fields, step inside the barns, and hear directly from the farmers who sustain our communities.

Tour stops included Collins Farm and Creamery, DiNitto Farms, Candella's Farm & Greenhouses, Copper City Brewing Co. and ended the day with a tour of Buttenschon Christmas Tree Farm, Assemblywoman Buttenschon's family owned farm.



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



Oneida County Farm Bureau



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| The board usually meets on the third Monday of the month at the CCE of Oneida in Oriskany. | |