

# Livingston 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.

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## SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**August 3** - Summer Social at Woodlawn Distillery, 2007 York Rd W, Linwood. Starting at 1 p.m. and going until whenever. All ages welcome.

**September 6** - Farm Fest at Kingston Farms, 5092 Groveland Road, Geneseo. Held from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

**October 11**- Genesee Valley Hunt Races, Geneseo, NY. What began over 125 years ago as a grand day of picnicking with friends and neighbors has evolved into a multi-faceted day of fun for young and old alike. Stay tuned for updates!

**October 21**- Livingston County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held at Avon Inn, Avon, NY. Livingston County Farm Bureau members will come together for an evening of camaraderie, as well as, our Annual Business meeting. We'll vote on board members and proposed policy resolutions to send to New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting (STACON '25) held in December. More information will follow!

**December 2-4** - New York Farm Bureau State Annual Convention (STACON '25) Navigating Your Ag Future. Held at Turning Stone Resort Casino, Verona, NY. Early bird registration is now open! Go to NYFB.org for more information!



## 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](http://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?

### 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, there is a place for you in Farm Bureau.



Membership directly impacts the work Livingston 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. Farm Bureau encourages all current members to share their stories and help spread the word about the benefits of joining the New York Farm Bureau.

### *Presidents 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 Livingston 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. Let's come together and share ideas. If you have a specific issue you would like to discuss, please contact me directly at [jklaper@linwoodag.com](mailto:jklaper@linwoodag.com).

Regards,

*Jack Klapper*

Livingston County Farm Bureau President



September 6th  
**Kingston Farms**  
10am-3pm

5092 Groveland Rd. Geneseo, NY 14454



Donate a non-perishable item for a chance to win local \$50 gift certificates !



**WOULD YOU CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR FARM FEST?**

We can always use an extra set of hands!

Email Leslie at [riverridgefarmsny@gmail.com](mailto:riverridgefarmsny@gmail.com)

### **THANK YOU, CHRIS!**

The Livingston County Farm Bureau would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Chris Cicero for all of his years of help and dedication to the Livingston County Ice Cream Booth at the Hemlock Fair. Chris is a former Livingston County Farm Bureau President and steps up each year to provide invaluable help at the fair and at Livingston County Farm Fest. The Board would like to take a moment to give him a special shout out!

In addition, the Board would also like to say a big "Thank you" to Meghan Rodwell for her years of service and dedication to Livingston County Farm Bureau. Meghan has served on the Board and now is currently their treasurer. She also provides invaluable help at the Hemlock Fair and all through out the year. Meghan ... we really appreciate all you do for us!

Finally, Thank you to all of this years patrons and volunteers at the Hemlock Fair Ice Cream booth. This would not be a successful fundraiser without your support. Thank you, thank you, thank you from Livingston County Farm Bureau!

**Photo right:** Long time Livingston County Farm Bureau volunteer, Chris Cicero.







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



## 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.

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NYFB.ORG

Scan to find  
county manager



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<b>COUNTY MANAGER</b> Amanda Krenning-Muoio .....	585-504-8308

Our Board of Directors usually meets on the first Monday of the month (except April, May and December) at Linwood Turf, Linwood, NY.