



# THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 18, Issue 4

September/October 2025

## *Catt Co Farm Bureau and CCE Invite You to Joint County Annual Meeting*

**Thursday, October 23**

**6-9 p.m.**

**Ellicottville Town Center  
28 Parkside Drive, Ellicottville**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

Dinner (soup, salad, dessert and drinks)  
will be served before the meeting

Please **RSVP by Oct. 16** to Tamara at  
[tsb48@cornell.edu](mailto:tsb48@cornell.edu) or  
716-699-2377 ext. 100

It's that time of year again! Time to get together with your neighbors to take a breath from harvest time and talk all things Extension and Farm Bureau. All Catt County residents are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend. Any resident can vote during the CCE portion of the meeting, but only Farm Bureau members can vote during their meeting.

As for the Farm Bureau portion, we will be voting on resolutions (made by you and others in our community) to be sent to the NYFB Annual Meeting in December. If they pass there, they will be added to the policy book and will be fought for by NYFB staffers in local, state, and/or national government.

We will also be voting on new board members and officers. If you or anyone you know has interest in joining the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Board, please contact Nathan Blesy ASAP at 716-435-7474.

We can't wait to see you and your family at the Annual Meeting!



## Summer Annual Picnic 2025

Were you at the Catt Co Farm Bureau Summer Annual Picnic this year? If you weren't, you missed out! We had good food and enjoyed the company of good friends. George Borrello gave us an update on the state legislature situation. Taylor Costa read her winning essay and received her scholarship check from Catt Co Farm Bureau. And, of course, there were all those door prizes and games for the kids. Be sure to get it on your calendar for next year!





## *A Fireside Chat with the County President*

### **Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members:**

The Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Board is made up of eight board members, one young farmer/rancher, a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The board is made up of all volunteers. This is the heart of Farm Bureau: the local volunteer. These members give their time and skills to help organize and advocate for all forms of agriculture. They are the root of the voice of New York Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau. It all comes back to the local county volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please reach out to any board member listed in this newsletter.

The Catt County FB Board meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Ellicottville Town Center building. All members are welcome to attend any meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Michael Telaak  
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President  
716-969-7676

**Newsletter Questions/Comments?** Contact the editor, Barb Blesy, at [n.blesy@gmail.com](mailto:n.blesy@gmail.com) or 716-435-5400.

## **Your Farm Bureau**

*2025 Directors – Serving Our County with Pride!*

|                             |                                     |              |                  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>President</b>            | Michael Telaak                      | 716-969-7676 | Dairy            |
| <b>Vice Pres.</b>           | Dave Zilker                         | 716-474-5859 | Rural Landowner  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>            | Carmen Wright                       | 716-676-2556 | Dairy/ Maple     |
| <b>Secretary</b>            | Margie Andrews                      | 716-358-2280 | Dairy            |
|                             | Nathan Blesy                        | 716-435-7474 | Dairy            |
|                             | Amanda Dackowsky                    | 716-432-9871 | Beef/ Livestock  |
|                             | Tom Graser                          | 716-353-5924 | Dairy            |
|                             | Mark Hansen                         | 716-474-6774 | Dairy            |
|                             | Kevin Herman                        | 716-397-9183 | Dairy            |
|                             | Katie Hill ( <b>P&amp;E Chair</b> ) | 716-801-0796 | Dairy            |
|                             | Brenden Martin                      | 716-801-2562 | Dairy            |
|                             | Don Wild                            | 716-969-4386 | Livestock/ Crops |
|                             | Paige Williams ( <b>YFR Chair</b> ) | 716-353-5002 | Crops            |
| <b>NYFB County Manager:</b> | Tim Bigham                          | 716-474-6585 |                  |
| <b>District 1 Director:</b> | Lavern Warriner                     | 607-426-0521 |                  |
| <b>Nationwide Ins. Rep:</b> | Christy Lincoln                     | 716-713-4848 |                  |

## **Resolutions:** *What Farm Bureau Is All About!*

Resolutions are the start of it all at Farm Bureau. These are ideas that farmers came up with to improve things. They make up the policy book that our staffers use to direct lawmakers in the way that we, as agriculturalists, would like to see. So, do you have something you'd like to see changed? It could be new legislation that you want added or existing legislation that you want removed. If you have any ideas about how we can make agriculture better, please call Dave Zilker at 716-474-5859 to talk about it. We'd love to hear your ideas!

## **Did You Discover the Ag Discovery Tent?**

Cattaraugus County once again teamed up with Milk for Health and the Dairy Ambassadors to create the Ag Discovery Tent. There were dairy treats available each day, as well as a corn box for the kids and coloring activities. There was also a giant milk carton photo booth and information available for those interested in learning more about agriculture.



## Calendar of Events

*Your Opportunities to Get Involved!*



### FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER  
28 PARKSIDE DRIVE  
ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

*We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. All members are welcome. We would love to hear your input!*



### CATT COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: OCTOBER 23

TIME: 6-9 P.M.

COST: \$5

PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER  
28 PARKSIDE DRIVE  
ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

*All Cattaraugus County residents are welcome to attend and participate in the CCE meeting, but only current Catt Co FB members may vote during our business meeting. Dinner will precede the meetings. Can't wait to see you there!*



## 4-Hers and FFA Students!



Are your kids branching out? Do they want to start a 4-H project with a completely different species? Are you dreading the cost of new pens, equipment, feed, etc.? Have them apply for a start-up scholarship! Is your child telling you they want to attend FFA National Convention or Camp Oswegatchie and you're not loving the idea of paying for that? Have them apply to us! We can help defer some of that cost.

If your kids are eligible for these scholarships, we give a maximum of \$200 per year per qualifying child. It's great way to more than make your money back from your membership while still enjoying all the benefits of Farm Bureau. In addition, 4-H and FFA high school juniors and seniors can visit the NYFB web page to sign up for a FREE student membership, which makes them eligible for this scholarship program even if their parents are not members.

The application requires your basic information plus whatever ag experience you have, a 300-500-word essay and your involvement in activities. You must have a Family or Student Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Membership or be sponsored by a Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau member.

The application can be obtained by emailing a request to [n.blesy@gmail.com](mailto:n.blesy@gmail.com) or on the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau webpage at [nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/cattaraugus-county](http://nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/cattaraugus-county).

## [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org)

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!

**E-Lobby Today!**

*Go to NYFB.org to E-Lobby on the hot issues you feel strongly about. All sorts of agricultural issues are available to lobby with the click of a button!*

It's  
**FALL**  
Y'all!

**GRAINGER**  
FOR THE ONES WHO GET IT DONE

Let Grainger help you get ready this harvest season with New York Farm Bureau member-exclusive pricing on select products and supplies, PLUS free standard ground shipping on all standard Grainger products.

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**Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau**

## Want to contact your legislators directly?

**Catt Co Legislature:** [Cattco.org/government/legislators](http://Cattco.org/government/legislators)

**Joe Sempolinski, Dist. 148**  
[sempolinskij@nyassembly.gov](mailto:sempolinskij@nyassembly.gov)

700 W. State St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
716-373-7103  
Fax: 716-373-7105

LOB  
Albany, NY 12248  
518-455-5241  
Fax: 518-455-5869

**Senator George M. Borrello**  
[borrello@nysenate.gov](mailto:borrello@nysenate.gov)

2-6 E Second St  
Fenton Building Suite 302  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
716-664-4603  
Fax: 716-664-2430

188 State St, LOB Room 406  
Albany, NY 12247  
518-455-3563  
Fax: 518-426-6905

## Catt County 4-H Dairy Judging Teams Earn Record Performance at State Fair!

Thirteen individuals from the Cattaraugus County Dairy program had the opportunity to judge at the Great New York State Fair. The novice team included Peyton Britton, Colt Conklin, Adalyn Tempio, Ben Thompson and Miranda Ritter. The team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, and Adalyn placed 6<sup>th</sup> individually. The junior team consisted of Kendal Herman, Blake Hill, Wyatt Shields and Claire Thompson. The junior team placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall, and Kendal placed 1<sup>st</sup> individually. The Senior team consisted of Caden Herman, Olivia Shawley and Addyson Shawley and placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall. All three seniors were asked to return for the second week of judging. Overall, Olivia placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, Addyson placed 12<sup>th</sup> and Caden placed 13<sup>th</sup>. Olivia has chosen to judge at the World Dairy Expo; Addyson will judge in Louisville; and Caden was selected as an alternate for the NYS 4-H Dairy judging teams.



**Front row, left to right:** Peyton Britton, Miranda Ritter, Colt Conklin, Ben Thompson, Adalyn Tempio and Claire Thompson.  
**Back row, left to right:** Caden Herman, Blake Hill, Wyatt Shields, Kendal Herman, Addyson Shawley and Olivia Shawley.

Cattaraugus County has never before had all three teams place in the top five, nor all of the senior team members asked to judge for the state teams in the same year. Congratulations on this huge accomplishment! It is amazing to see our dairy program's continued growth and achievements. Great job kids!