



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Cattaraugus County Annual Meeting 2025

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau once again held their Annual meeting in conjunction with Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension. There was good food and good friends as the Farm Bureau voted on resolutions and new Board Members. Andrew Durow and Paige Williams were each elected to 2 year terms. In addition, Mike Telaak was re-elected as County President and Dave Zilker was re-elected as County Vice President and Holly Blesy was appointed as Young Farmer & Rancher Chair.



NYFB State Annual Meeting 2025

Mike Telaak and Mark Hansen once again represented Cattaraugus County at this year's NYFB state convention (Stacon). Resolutions that had been brought forth from counties across the state were voted on by the delegation, thus creating the 2026 NYFB Policy Book- also known as the road map for Farm Bureau staffers when lobbying our representatives.



Wanna Go to Lobby Days?

Have you ever wondered about Lobby Days? What is it? What kind of commitment does it involve? Lobby Days is a unique experience where a state-wide gathering of farmers convene in Albany to talk to their legislators and the legislators from "down state" about agriculture and proposed policy and how it would help or hurt NY farmers. Farm Bureau trains you about the hot topics of the day and provides you with materials to help share the information and your story with the legislators. You'll get the chance to meet and question the Commissioner of Agriculture and others. You'll be given a schedule with appointments with the various legislators and you will be going in groups- so don't worry- no first timers are sent off on their own! Oh- and don't forget the Taste of NY Reception where counties and businesses share samples of their finest food and drinks! Interested? Contact Tim Bigham at tbigham@nyfb.org or 716-474-6585.





A Fireside Chat with the County President

Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

Recently, Mark Hanson and I had the privilege of going to the Farm Bureau State Convention at the beginning of December. It's always an interesting event where representatives from each county of New York state meet and update our New York Farm Bureau Policy Book. The Policy Book is the framework that is then used by the organization to determine how we lobby and push or react to legislation. Many topics were discussed but one of the hot topics this year was about migrant/H2A labor. It was a spirited debate. I implore you to stop and think about what thoughts and feelings you have about this issue. If you find you do have any concerns or opinions on the subject, or any other issues, please feel free to come to our monthly meeting or contact one of our board members. We are always looking for input from our local members to better guide our policies. We are planning to set up a policy meeting this year to allow for and facilitate discussion with all of Cattaraugus's membership, so keep an eye out for when this will be happening. We would love to see you there!

Michael Telaak
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President
716-969-7676
mdtelaak@yahoo.com

Want to contact your legislators directly?

Catt County Legislature:
Cattco.org/government/legislators

Joe Sempolinski, Dist 148
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

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



Like us on Facebook:
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau

Your Farm Bureau

2026 Directors- Serving our county with pride!

President- Michael Telaak	716-969-7676	Dairy
Vice President-Dave Zilker	716-474-5859	Rural Landowner
Treasurer- Carmen Wright	716-498-0547	Dairy/ Maple
Secretary- Margie Andrews	716-499-4953	Dairy
Nathan Blesy	716-435-7474	Dairy
Amanda Dackowsky	716-432-9871	Beef/ Farm Store
Andrew Durow	330-217-0335	Maple
Mark Hansen	716-474-6774	Dairy
Kevin Herman	716-397-9183	Dairy
Brenden Martin	716-801-2562	Dairy
Don Wild	716-969-4386	Livestock/Crops
Paige Williams	716-353-5002	Crops
YFR Chair- Holly Blesy	716-560-3111	Dairy
NYFB County Manager-Tim Bigham	716-474-6585	
District 1 Director- Lavern Warriner	607-426-0521	
Nationwide Ins. Rep- Christy Lincoln	716-713-4848	

Cabin Fever? Cure it with a great way to get out.

New York Farm Bureau® members* receive

\$500

bonus cash on the purchase or lease
of a new Ranger, F-150 or Super Duty
fordrecognizesu.com/farmbureau



*Must be a New York Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase. Proof of membership is required. Members must present Bonus Cash Certificate to dealer at the time of purchase. Limit one bonus cash offer per vehicle. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer eligibility restrictions apply. This incentive is not available on F-150 Raptor, F-600, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty.

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!



FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND; 7:30PM

PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER
28 PARKSIDE DR
ELLIOTTVILLE, NY

***Note the change* We usually meet the 2nd Monday of each month, but moved the February meeting since it conflicted with Lobby days. All members are welcome. We would love to hear your input!**



LOBBY DAYS

DATE: FEBRUARY 9TH AND 10TH

PLACE: ALBANY, NY

Come speak to your legislators and down state legislators face to face about agriculture! Explain to them your needs and challenges and how you feel about pending legislation. No experience necessary! Training is provided. Contact Tim Bigham ASAP at 716-474-6585.



AG LITERACY WEEK

DATE: MARCH 16TH -20TH

PLACE: AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEAR YOU!

*We provide the book and the activity- you just need to go read the book to the kids and help them with the activity. If you would like to read to kids in your district (or others) please let Kim Oudemool know.
(kkr35@cornell.edu or 716-699-2377)*



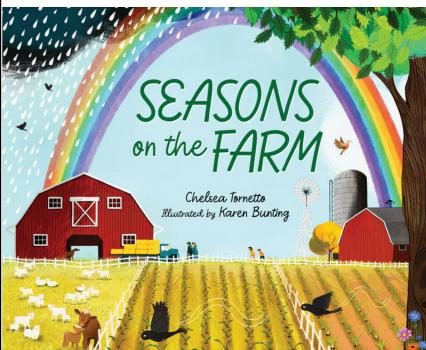
AG TRIVIA NIGHT

DATE: APRIL 18TH

TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:30

Start gathering your teams now! Do you have a business interested in being a sponsor or donating an item for the Chinese auction? Contact Michael Telaak at 716-969-7676 or mdtelaak@yahoo.com.



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! Many issues are available to lobby with just the click of a button!

Want to stay in the know? Make sure NY Farm Bureau has your current email address! (You can send your email address to tbigham@nyfb.org with the subject line-“please add me to the nyfb mailing list”). NYFB sends out time sensitive emails about lobbying for various topics as they come up. Make sure you never miss sharing your opinion on an issue you care about!



4-Hers and FFA Students!



Is there a 4-Her in your life in need of a cash infusion to offset the cost of a new type of project? Is there an FFA student that needs help paying for a trip? Maybe we can help!

If you have kids that are eligible for these scholarships (all ages in 4-H or FFA are encouraged to apply), we give a maximum of \$200 per year per child that qualifies. That is 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.bleys@gmail.com or on the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau webpage located at nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/cattaraugus-county.

Ag Literacy Week- Volunteers needed!

We need your help to reach as many elementary students in Cattaraugus County as possible! Last year our Ag Literacy team did an AMAZING job and read to 1459 students in about 107 classrooms across 12 school districts in Catt County! We would love to have your help this year. You would be reading a book (provided by us- and the classroom gets to keep the book when you’re done reading it to them!) and helping a class do a related activity (also provided by us). You can choose to do one classroom or many! Just let Kim Oudemool from Catt County CCE know (716-699-2377 or kkr35@cornell.edu)!

This year’s book is Seasons on the Farm by Chelsea Tornetto. On a farm, each season arrives with new jobs to do—crops to plant, animals to tend to, and fields to harvest. Get an inside look at what spring, summer, fall, and winter look like on a family farm, with adorable baby animals, rumbling tractors, pumpkins, pies, etc.

Attn: Highschool Seniors!

NYFB Scholarship Deadline is April 1st 2026

The NYFB scholarship application is currently available at NYFB.org. Applicants will compete to win a \$250 scholarship from Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, a \$250 district level award, and on the state level NY Farm Bureau will be awarding one-time scholarships to the top two applicants statewide, \$3000 and \$2000.

Applicant Guidelines:

- 2026 graduating high school senior who will continue their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural field.
- Live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue
- Family Farm Bureau Membership or Student Farm Bureau Membership is required. (Student memberships can be obtained for free at nyfb.org)

On nyfb.org the scholarship can be found by clicking on the “Programs” tab, followed by the “Promotion and Education” tab and then the “scholarship” tab. Here a link to the application and instructions on how to fill out it out can be found. Don’t forget all submissions must be received by 11:59pm April 1st 2026 for consideration!

