





## At Last Year's Lobby Day March 3 & 4

Pictured Left: April Metcalf, Franklin County Farm Bureau President and Patricia Gilbert, St Lawrence County Farm Bureau board member handing out local farmers' products on their joint booth.

On the right, Franklin, Clinton and Washington County Farm Bureau members representing the county during meetings with legislators.




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## StaCon 2025 Advocating for Agriculture



L-R: Ashley Sardo, NYFB Manager of National Affairs moderating a discussion time with NYFB President David Fisher and AFBF President Zippy Duvall.



At the delegate session on Dec. 4 during State Convention. April Metcalf and Jennie Cougler representing Franklin County as delegates.

**BREAK THE MOLD**





**BUILD THE LEGACY**

**YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS  
CONFERENCE**

**March 21-22, 2026**

**\$99 early bird registration through Feb. 5**

**YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS**  
Craftsman Inn & Suites  
Syracuse, NY  
[nyfb.org/events](http://nyfb.org/events)

**YFR Conference:** Please contact County Manager Natally Batiston at (518) 937-0269 / [nbatiston@nyfb.org](mailto:nbatiston@nyfb.org) to learn more about potential financial support opportunities offered by Franklin CFB if you are interested in attending this conference.

**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](http://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.

**Pres. Message:**

I truly value your input, and your feedback helps shape what we do for our members. Thank you again for being a member of New York Farm Bureau. Your support makes a difference every day, and I look forward to working with you this year.

Respectfully, April Metcalf

**Franklin County Farm Bureau  
Board of Directors**

April Metcalf, President .....	518-353-4618
Mike Murphy, VP & District Director ...	585-683-6105
Marsha Gokey, Treasurer .....	518-572-2636
Star Bashaw .....	518-363-4515
Justin Tucker .....	315-600-6989
Joshua Ooms, Young Farmer Chair .....	518-561-6121
John St. Mary, ProEd Chair .....	518-353-0843
Natally Batiston, NYFB Co. Manager ...	518-937-0269
County Support Office .....	518-431-5650

Franklin County Farm Bureau

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

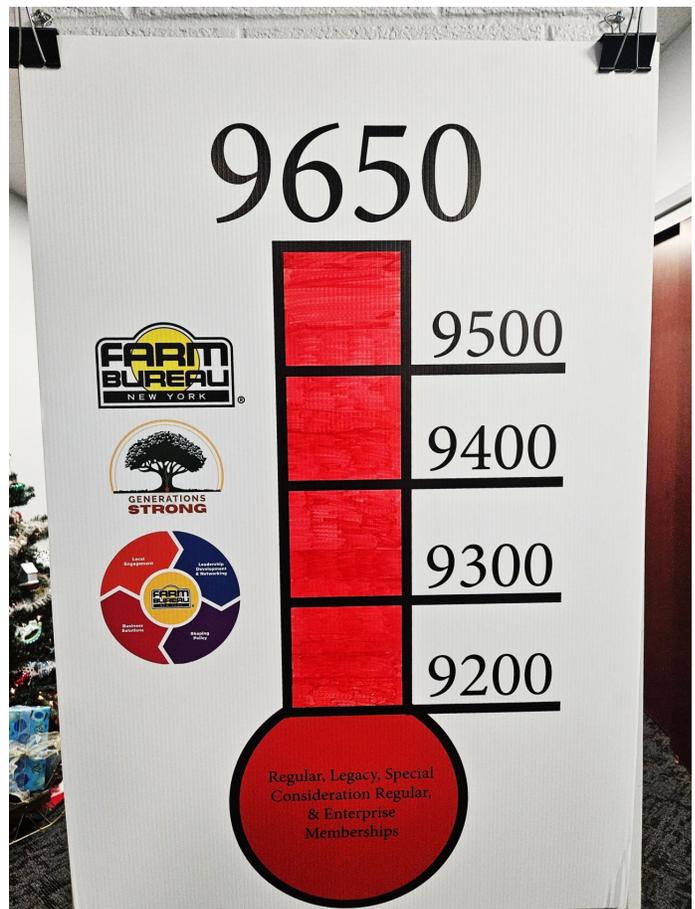


## Membership Goal Achieved!

We are thrilled to announce that New York Farm Bureau has officially hit our goal of 9,650 voting members! This membership growth could not come at a better time, and proves that there are pathways for membership organizations to find success.

This isn't just a number though, it represents 9,650 farmers across NY state standing together to protect our farms, our food supply, and our rural way of life. From the North Country to Long Island, our grassroots strength has never been clearer.

A huge THANK YOU to our dedicated volunteers, hard working staff, and every member who stepped up to join this year. We are stronger together!



# Franklin County Farm Bureau News

February 2026



## President's Message:



As we welcome the start of a new year, I wish you, your farm families and your businesses a productive and successful year ahead.

I'm thrilled to announce that New York Farm Bureau has officially reached our goal

of 9,650 voting members! This milestone could not have come at a better time. It demonstrates that our grassroots organization continues to find meaningful pathways to success and creates significant impact in the agricultural community. The more members we have, the stronger our collective voice becomes in shaping the future of agriculture.

As most of our members' renewal dates fall in December, I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who has already renewed. For those who have not yet done so, there is still time. You have until January 31 to renew and help us maintain our amazing membership base. You may not always see it firsthand, but your membership and support are incredibly valuable to our agricultural community, our county and beyond.

NYFB has been busy planning for the year ahead, including putting together a comprehensive document

outlining our state priorities. These priorities will guide discussions as the legislative session gets underway and continues through June. Priorities include significant funding support for Cornell University; extending the refundable investment tax credit; removing the requirement for overtime pay on the weekly consecutive 24-hour rest period, when total work hours remain below the overtime threshold; supporting renewable energy policies that include common-sense timelines based on grid capacity, while strongly opposing all-electric mandates and bans on propane, wood-burning, oil or natural gas appliances; and more.

As I write this, a robust 2026 calendar is being planned at both the county and state levels, including events, workshops and webinars. Please keep an eye on your weekly news emails for updates and opportunities. Upcoming statewide events to mark on your calendar include Taste of NY and Lobby Day on February 9-10, a D.C. lobbying trip on March 12 and the Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference on March 21-22. Details on these and future events can be found at [www.nyfb.org/events](http://www.nyfb.org/events). Financial support to attend these events may be available through your County Farm Bureau. Do you have ideas for events, workshops or other opportunities, or if you would like to be involved, please reach out.

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## Taste of NY & Lobby Day Invitation Feb. 9 & 10

Would you like to represent your county this year on Lobby Day on Feb 10 and have the opportunity to sit with our representatives and talk about our priorities and local issues? Or even attend Taste of NY and Lobby Day (or other following events) to participate and see how the process works? Please, contact Franklin CFB President April Metcalf at 518-353-4618.