

# Cortland County Farm Bureau

February 2026



## President's Message

Happy New Year!

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

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**FARM BUREAU NEW YORK**

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nyfb.org/events

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**BUILD THE LEGACY**

**YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS CONFERENCE**

**March 21-22, 2026**

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## 2026 Geraldine Young Award - Nominations Now Open



The Cortland County Farm Bureau is seeking nominations for the 2026 Geraldine Young Friend of Agriculture Award. Established around 1995, this award honors an organization, business, or individual in Cortland County that has demonstrated outstanding service to agriculture.

The award was the brainchild of Geraldine "Gerry" Young, a dedicated Farm Bureau member and lifelong advocate for agriculture. Gerry was active at the county, state, and national levels, contributing extensively to the

Pro-Ed Committee and the Promotion & Education Program.

If you would like to nominate an individual or business for this meaningful recognition, please complete the nomination form located here: [forms.gle/gf1vaT5sk2eAzRYH9](https://forms.gle/gf1vaT5sk2eAzRYH9). Nominations need to be completed by February 15.

Save the DATE! The Geraldine Young Award will be presented at the upcoming Agricultural Luncheon being held on March 19.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**AGRICULTURAL LUNCHEON**

**MARCH 19, 2026**  
**11 AM - 4 PM**

**BREAKOUT EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS**

- Stress, Success & Succession
- Marketing your Ag Business

**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

## 2026 New York Farm Bureau Legislative Priorities

Below are the New York Farm Bureau 2026 Legislative Priorities. These priorities are a culmination of the grassroots efforts which began last fall at county annual meetings and culminated at the State Convention held in December. These priorities reflect the collective interest of our members and rural communities and will determine the focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead.

- **Support** critical funding for current agricultural animal health, promotion, research, and environmental programs in the final FY 26/27 state budget.
- **Support** for a significant funding investment in the Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Science to forward its mission of collegiate agricultural education, research, and extension.
- **Extend** the refundable investment tax credit and allow construction costs for farmworker housing to be eligible for the tax credit.
- **Move** the administration of product marketing and research orders from Empire State Development to the Department of Agriculture and Markets.
- **Remove** the requirement for overtime payment on the weekly consecutive 24-hour rest period when total work hours are still below the overtime threshold.
- **Support** legislation that would develop a Clean Fuel Standard.
- **Support** funding for the NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health to do research and promote education on temperature-related working conditions before any legislation (such as the Temperature Extreme Mitigation Program Act) is passed.
- **Support** the exemption of agricultural businesses from Extended Producer Responsibility legislation until a cost-effective and practical agricultural recycling program is established and funded by the state.
- **Support** mandating that fire, rescue, library, and other ad valorem taxing districts use agricultural assessment values when calculating property taxes.
- **Support** renewable energy policies that incorporate common-sense timeframes for adoption based upon grid capacity and support for the use of other energy sources including nuclear. Strongly oppose all-electric mandates and bans on the use of propane, wood burning, oil, or natural gas appliances.

### President's Message Continued

putting together a comprehensive document outlining our state priorities. These priorities will guide discussions as the legislative session gets underway and continues through June. The 2026 NYFB Farm Bureau legislative priorities are in the article above.

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 events are included in this newsletter such as the Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference held March 21-22. Information on our county events can be found on our facebook page Cortland County Farm Bureau. NYFB state level events can be found at [www.nyfb.org/events](http://www.nyfb.org/events).

If you have ideas for events, workshops or other opportunities, or if you would like to be involved, please reach out. 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.

Regards,

**Emily Olsenwik**

Cortland County Farm Bureau President

### Cortland County Farm Bureau Attends State Annual Meeting

Cortland County Farm Bureau helped chart the course for agriculture's future at the New York Farm Bureau 2025 State Convention (StaCon) December 2-4 at Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona. This year's theme was "Navigating Your Ag Future." Workshops and an engaging program were offered to help NYFB members, farmers, and agricultural professionals better plan for the future. Member delegates also



voted on public policy positions that the state organization will advocate for the 2026 year in Albany and Washington, D.C.

**Pictured:** Cortland County Farm Bureau members and StaCon delegates, Julia Fouts and Dakota Finch.

## Cortland Ag Trivia 2025

Thank you to all who participated in the Cortland County Farm Bureau Ag Trivia 2025. Our Ag Trivia event raises funds dedicated to youth scholarships, FFA Blue Jacket awards, and other youth programming. Congratulations to our 2025 scholarship recipients: Elsie Donlick - \$500 scholarship; Tyler Fichette - \$500 scholarship; and FFA Blue Jacket recipients: Greta Frink - Cincinnatus; Faith Baker - Marathon; Haylee Basset - McGraw; Caroline Chapman - Homer; George Currie - Tully.

Thank you also to our host site CNY Farm Supply and to CNY Rental who supplied the many tables and chairs. Food and beverage donations: McGraw Box Brewing Co., Laurie Poole, Trinity Valley Dairy, Hollenback's Cider Mill, Inc., Dragonfyre Distillery.

We couldn't have had a successful night without our many sponsors and business' who donated auction items. Be sure to let them know you appreciate their support!

*Congratulations to the winning Ag Trivia team Farm and Family! Dan and Stephanie Potter, Mark and Bernice Masler and Tim and Beth Herman.*



### Auction Donations

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| <p><b><u>Gold Sponsors</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Against the Grain Business Solutions LLC</li><li>• American National Insurance Co.</li><li>• Armor Animal Health</li><li>• DeRuyter Farm &amp; Garden Co-op</li><li>• Doty Farms - Sandy Doty</li><li>• Ensign Family Maple</li><li>• Farm Credit East</li><li>• H &amp; H Trucking</li><li>• Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC</li><li>• Mercer Milling Company</li><li>• Midstate Veterinary Services PLLC</li><li>• Olsenwick Hoof Trimming</li><li>• Seed Consultants - Steve Linda Foote</li><li>• Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners</li><li>• The First National Bank of Dryden</li></ul> | <p><b><u>Silver Sponsors</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cortland County BDC/IDA</li><li>• Currie Holsteins LLC</li><li>• Eves Broadcasting Inc.</li><li>• Hale Farm Supply LLC</li><li>• Hosking Sales</li><li>• Leach's Custom Trash</li><li>• R &amp; M Farm &amp; PRO Hardware, LLC</li><li>• Shipwreck Mini Golf</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Always Bloom</li><li>• CNY Beef</li><li>• Champlain Valley Equipment</li><li>• Cowlick Salon &amp; Millrace Maple Products</li><li>• Deval Dairy Service</li><li>• Eltimar Design</li><li>• Gates Carriage Services LLC</li><li>• Highland Knoll</li><li>• Holtz Nelson Dairy Consult LLC</li><li>• Homer Mens and Boys, Inc</li><li>• Jerry Brown &amp; Linda Wiswall</li><li>• Kallos Body Bar - Missy Davis</li><li>• Lilley's Tack &amp; Feed</li><li>• New Hope View Farm LLC</li><li>• Pine Hollow Woodcrafts - Andy Lampman</li><li>• Reakes County Goods</li><li>• Second Time Around</li><li>• Danielle Slade</li><li>• Tallmadge Tire</li></ul> |
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### Bronze Sponsors

- Clinton Tractor
- Happy Pastures Campground
- Lallemand Animal Nutrition - Anthony Hall

## Youth Scholarships Announced

### Cortland County Farm Bureau Scholarship

This is a scholarship for an individual attending college or a trade school in the coming year. ***In order to apply, you must be a member of the Cortland County Farm Bureau.*** You can become a member by going to NYFB.org clicking on the membership tab on top and scrolling to "Student Membership." Membership is free for students aged 16 to 21.

Cortland County Farm Bureau Scholarship form ***must be completed and submitted by February 23, 2026.*** The form can be found at: [bit.ly/4jY6xJj](https://bit.ly/4jY6xJj)

Awards are up to \$1,000. Notification of award will be by March 9, 2026. Payments will be made upon successful completion of one semester of college or course documented by a copy of transcript, completion certificate, or comparable records.

Preference is given to applicants whose family are Farm Bureau members.



### New York Farm Bureau Scholarship

New York high school seniors who are graduating and interested in pursuing a career related to agriculture can apply for New York Farm Bureau's Agricultural Youth Scholarship. Eligible students can use the financial award for college or advanced training in the skilled trades.

Use the QR code provided for more details and to access the online application!

*Deadline for submitting NYFB Scholarship application is April 1.*

For more information, email [proed@nyfb.org](mailto:proed@nyfb.org) or call 1-800-342-4143.



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



Cortland County Farm Bureau

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### Have a Passion for Agriculture?

Cortland County Farm Bureau is seeking individuals who are passionate about advancing agriculture within our community. Currently the following committees are seeking additional members:

- \* Membership
- \* Scholarship
- \* Young Farmer

If you're interested in contributing to the future of agriculture in Cortland County, please reach out to any of our board members for more information - see back page. You can also send an email to: [cortlandcountyfarmb@gmail.com](mailto:cortlandcountyfarmb@gmail.com)

### CORTLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b> Emily Olsenwik..... 607-345-7840	<b>County Manager</b> Bailey Coon ..... 518-937-0566
<b>Vice President</b> Matt Kemak ..... 607-345-8940	<b>County Support Offices</b> Jill Williamson ..... 518-431-5670 Felicia Dougherty ..... 518-431-5650
<b>Secretary</b> Amanda Barber ..... 607-597-9363	The Cortland County Farm Bureau meetings take place at locations around Cortland County on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.
<b>Treasurer</b> Mikayla Gates ..... 607-591-4836	The locations for the next few months are as follows:
<b>Directors</b> Dakota Finch ..... 607-237-8763 David Martin ..... 315-229-8775 Vince Pedini ..... 607-849-4086 Richard Villnave ..... 607-662-5364	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February 18 @ 6:30.m. Cincinnatus High School</li><li>• There will not be a March meeting due to a District event March 18 &amp; the Ag Summit March 19</li></ul>
<b>Young Farmers &amp; Ranchers Chair</b> Julia Fouts ..... 607-591-4917	
<b>Pro-Ed Chair</b> Vacant	