

Montgomery County

Farm Bureau

News

March 2026



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President's Message

Greetings!



As we forge ahead into the 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 fell in December, I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who renewed. You may not always see it firsthand, but your membership and support are incredibly valuable to our agricultural community, our county and beyond. Know someone who should be a Farm Bureau member? Invite them to our next Montgomery County Farm Bureau meeting or simply share a cup of coffee and talk about how Farm Bureau has helped you succeed.

NYFB has been busy planning for the year ahead, including putting together a comprehensive document outlining our state priorities. These priorities were critical to Lobby Day meetings in Albany and will continue to 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 under way 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 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. Financial support to attend these events may be available through your County Farm Bureau.

Cont'd inside:

Join Us

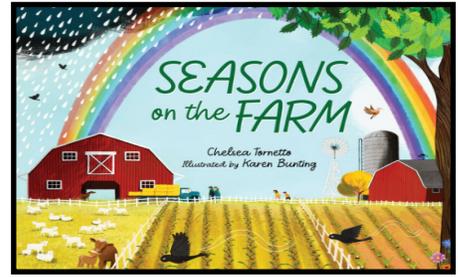
At your Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, we're always welcoming new ideas, opportunities, and members—let's grow together! Contact us to get involved. We usually meet on the second Thursday of each month. The location and time vary from month to month, so please reach out to any of the members listed in this newsletter to confirm where and at what time we will be meeting. March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Montgomery County Agriculture Economic Development Building is our next Montgomery County Farm Bureau meeting.



Upcoming Event: Ag Literacy Week March 16-20

Get ready! Members and ag enthusiasts will visit elementary classrooms to share the love of agriculture and inspire the next generation. This year's book is "Seasons on the Farm" by Chelsea Tornetto. Throughout the year, life on a farm is filled with growth and joy, patience and renewal.

On a farm, each season arrives with new jobs to do—crops to plant, animals to tend to, and fields to harvest. Readers get an insider's look at what spring, summer, fall, and winter look like on a family farm, from adorable baby animals to rumbling tractors and pumpkins to pies. This sweet, rhyming story is perfect for young readers, whether their home is on a farm or not!



Maple Dijon Vinaigrette Recipe

As we are in full swing with Maple in Montgomery County, Who doesn't want a tasty recipe to go along with it?

- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- Salt & freshly cracked black pepper
- 10 cups mixed salad greens



Directions:

1. Whisk together the maple syrup, mustard and cider vinegar in a large bowl. Whisk in the olive oil in a slow, steady stream until the vinaigrette emulsifies and thickens. Salt & pepper as needed for taste.
2. Toss the mixed greens with vinaigrette and serve.

President's Message, cont.

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.

Tom Nelson



Mike Settle (Left), Montgomery County, works with other Farm Bureau members to advocate in Albany with Assemblyman Matt Simpson for better Agricultural legislation.

2026 NYFB Agricultural Youth Scholarship Application

High school seniors: Apply now for Farm Bureau scholarships to support your future in ag!

New York high school 2026 graduating high school seniors 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.

Deadline for submitting applications is April 1. For a full list of eligibility & procedures visit the website at <https://my.reviewr.com/s2/site/NYFBScholarship26> or email proed@nyfb.org

- State winner selection will be made from district winners, based solely on the submitted applications. District winners and two state winners will be announced by the end of May. The first-place state winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and the second-place state winner will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

Montgomery County Soil & Water Presents: The Vermont Ripsower

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District will be loaning out a Vermont Ripsower to Montgomery County farmers. The VT Ripsower interplants deep-rooted flowering forbs and other seed mixtures into pastures or hay fields for high yield and quality feed for livestock, soil organisms and pollinators. The VT Ripsower is purpose-built for increasing rooting and topsoil depth in the incremental Keyline soil-formation sequence. It shatters compacted soil layers, maximizes infiltration of precipitation and groundwater recharge. The District hopes to have this implement by June 2026.

In addition, we currently have two No Till Drills available to use throughout Montgomery County.

Please contact Joe Slezak at 518-853-7010 for more information about these implements and to be added to the sign-up list.

Legislative Update: 2026 NYFB State Priority Issues

- Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health, promotion, research, and environmental programs in the final FY 26/27 state budget.
- Support 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.



Montgomery County Farm Bureau
 New York Farm Bureau
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Member Benefit of the Month-Sherwin Williams Paint

Save up to 40% on paint and supplies.

**Farm Bureau Updates
 Why It Matters**

Why it matters is simple: every one of us depends on agriculture, whether we recognize it daily or not. The food on our tables, the health of our communities, and the resilience of our local economies all begin with the land and those who steward it. Agriculture’s success doesn’t happen by chance; it is strengthened by dedicated volunteers who give their time, skills, and passion because they truly care. These individuals support farmers, protect natural resources, and help ensure sustainable practices endure.

Their commitment helps agriculture thrive today while safeguarding it for future generations. So give yourselves a pat on the back for doing a great job and then ask a friend or neighbor to join you as a Montgomery County Farm Bureau member.

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