

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau

Spring 2026



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When we last communicated, it seemed that the mood in the farming community was a lot more optimistic. Hopefully things get better. Spring is in the air, maybe a little early, but we'll keep an eye on things and persevere.

In February, member Bailey Jordan and I attended the Taste of New York reception the evening before

Lobby Day in Albany. We showcased several products from Chautauqua County, which were well received. Later in February I had a one-on-one meeting with Congressman Nick Langworthy. We had a productive conversation. I conveyed some of the tribulations of farmers in our area and expressed to him several priorities that are needed for consideration.

In March I traveled to Washington, D.C. with the New



Chautauqua County Farm Bureau President Bob Patterson met with Congressman Nick Langworthy to discuss the agricultural status of dairy, grapes, small farms and more.

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Your Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board & NYFB Support Staff

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Commodities</u>
President.....	Bob Patterson	716-672-9076	Grapes
Vice President.....	Jim Joy	716-467-4200	Grapes, Livestock
Treasurer.....	Kaitlyn Bentley	716-499-9262	Farm Market, Live-stock
Secretary &			
P&E Chair.....	Cassandra Skal	814-790-3506	Livestock, Equine
Directors.....			
	Brian (Larry) Jantzi	716-355-6638	Dairy
	Rich Jozwiak	716-450-7766	Grapes
	Richard Kimball	508-965-6400	Dairy
	Evan Schiedel	716-223-0030	Grapes, Vegetables
YF&R Chair.....	Lindsey Crisanti Meeder	716-913-7678	Grapes, Ag Teacher
County Manager.....	Tim Bigham	716-474-6585	
County Support Staff.			
	Felicia Dougherty	518-431-5650	
	Jill Williamson	518-431-5670	

All members are encouraged to attend monthly board meetings, typically held at the Farm Credit office in Mayville at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday each month.

New York Farm Bureau Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day

New York Farm Bureau held Lobby Day nearly a month earlier than usual due to the legislative calendar. Bob Patterson Jr. and Bailey Jordan were able to attend. They set up a table with maple and grape goods from Chautauqua County at the Taste of New York reception which was attended by approximately 500 people, including legislators, legislative staff, agency officials and even Governor Hochul.

Visits the following day were with our local and adopted legislators who enjoy meeting with Farm Bureau because we're organized and make sense of what we ask. After spending time with Senator George Borrello and Assemblyman Andrew Molitor, we had our names read on the Assembly floor by the Assemblyman. We also visited our three adopted legislators, who are members from downstate New York wholikely don't have any farmers in their district. We shared with these members what Farm Bureau's requests are and gave them a contact point with rural constituents to open up the dialogue.



Above: Chautauqua County Farm Bureau member Bailey Jordan (right) discusses the products made in Chautauqua County and available for tasting at the Taste of New York reception table.



Left: A meeting with Assemblyman Andrew Molitor on Lobby Day included, from left to right, Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau member Holly Blesy, two FFA Collegiate students from Cobleskill, Assemblymember Molitor, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau members Bob Patterson and Bailey Jordan.

Bring Your Barn Sign!



We encourage you to show your support for Farm Bureau by displaying a Farm Bureau member sign at your booth during the Chautauqua County Fair—especially if you'll be exhibiting animals. If you need a sign, please contact one of our board members listed on the front page of this newsletter. Thank you!

Safety Activities

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau (CCFB) has parlayed our strong relationship with the County Emergency Services Teams to continue to improve service to our agricultural community by this vital county department. To that end, they reached out to us for help setting up a live grain bin training session. CCFB set them up with a quantity of corn to use. We are also on the Technical Rescue Team's schedule to demonstrate proper large animal handling techniques. We realized this need as we keep having incidents of barn collapses, barn fires and highway accidents that may require emergency services personnel to handle animals. We believe that we are well on our way to having this training lined up for them later this year.



Ag Trivia 2026

Beginning in 2019, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau tried its first Trivia Night, which was a success. Since then, with the exception of 2020, we have held this event every year. This event combines food, fun and fellowship to provide farmers a much-needed break from the monotony of winter. It also improves the agricultural understanding of all involved. We had 50 attend this year's event, which was held by our local Farm Bureau Promotion and Engagement Committee. As chair of the committee, Cassie Skal would like to particularly thank Jim Joy, Rich Jozwiak, Kaitlyn Bentley, Dick Kimball, Hailey Laramie, Lindsey Delles and Jane Roalsvig, who were all instrumental in this year's event.

The evening started with a nice variety of delicious chicken wings provided by our host, Mayville VFW. Pizza, cookies and some other accoutrements were also provided. Attendees bid on a large variety of items in the silent and Chinese auctions. And, of course, in the middle of all the action were 30 agriculturally specific trivia questions pulled together by our emcee of the evening, Hailey Laramie.



Farm Bureau wishes to thank the huge slate of sponsors for our event, including Mayville VFW, Landpro, Bit-O-Breeze Farm, Fairbanks Maple, Romance Tractor, Dunkirk NAPA, Mayville NAPA, Java Farm Supply, Service Hardware, Valley Tire, Monte's Small Engine, Power Shop, Spartan Warehouse, Home Depot, Farm Credit East, Country Ayre Farm, Eastern States, Hillside Metal, Wigger's New Holland, Peterson Farms, Judy Brown, AgriAmerica LLC, Chautauqua Maid/Bob Patterson, Seedway and Gold Star. A huge thank you to all of these sponsors for making our night a big success!

Left: Waiting for the main event to start.

2026: The International Year of the Woman Farmer

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations officially launched the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF) 2026 with an opening ceremony held in late 2025, officially setting the stage for global action in 2026.

Women farmers are central to food security, nutrition and economic resilience. The International Year of the Woman Farmer spotlights the essential roles women play across agrifood systems — from production to trade — while these roles often go unrecognized. IYWF 2026 aims to raise awareness and promote actions to close gender gaps and improve women's livelihoods worldwide.

“Progress on women's empowerment in food systems has largely stalled in the last decade,” said Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, chief of economics for FAO. Dr. Cullen added that women continue to earn less than their male counterparts, often working more hours and under harsher conditions with fewer protections.

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture in the U.S., women in agriculture saw a slight

decline in representation within the farming and ranching industries, even as the data shows they have a greater role on family operations.

IYWF 2026 seeks to address the challenges women in agriculture face, such as land tenure, financial and technical constraints, and limited access to services and education. It also seeks to encourage policies and investments that empower women in agrifood systems, and to promote greater synergies among international initiatives supporting women farmers.

Policy Begins at the County Level!

We're always interested in hearing what you have to say! You have the ability to help shape our Farm Bureau policy book and to help remove or change burdensome regulations/laws to help make your farm or business more profitable, efficient and sustainable.

Email Chqfarmbureaupolicy@gmail.com and let's start the discussion!

New York Farm Bureau
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Albany, NY 12205
Chautauqua County Farm Bureau



Presidents Message, continued

York Farm Bureau to advocate for the farmers of New York and Chautauqua County. We had a full slate of meetings, and along with other member leaders from the region, we considered the meetings successful. We again delved into the priorities of the state and county, and as always, I expressed the virtues of living and farming in Chautauqua County.

Our annual Trivia Night was a great success. We have a re-cap inside this newsletter.

I want to assure all the members that we at the Chautauqua County Farm Bureau strive to be accessible and responsive to all the members we serve. We want you to know that your priorities are our priorities, so please contact me or any board member to help us better understand how things are going.

Robert Patterson

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau President

The advertisement features a background of a car dealership with several cars. In the top left corner is the New York Farm Bureau logo. The main text reads: "NEW YORK FARM BUREAU MEMBERS SAVE UP TO 35% OFF THE COST OF RENTAL VEHICLES." Below this text is a large red "AVIS" logo. To the left of the text is a smartphone displaying a hand holding a set of keys. Below the phone are two red buttons: "ONLINE BOOKING" and "AVAILABLE". At the bottom left is a phone icon and the number "1-800-633-3469". At the bottom center is the website "www.avis.com". At the bottom right is a red car.