



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Volume 19, Issue 3

June/ July 2026

Time for the Summer Annual Picnic!

Sunday, July 19

Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Awards, speakers and food at 1 p.m.

Gibbs Wintering Facility

9192 Broadway Rd

Gowanda

Please bring a dish to pass.

Chicken BBQ, drinks and table service will be provided.

All are welcome!
Bring the whole family!

Bring canned goods to donate to the food pantry

Legislative updates & scholarship awards

Kids' games!

Door prizes!

Ag Trivia Night Sponsors

We'd like to thank all our sponsors and all of you that made Ag Trivia Night a success once again. More than \$2,000 was raised to put towards scholarships and ag education, and a good time was had by all!

Gold Sponsors:

Ford Brothers Wholesale Meats

HK Services

Farm Credit East

Gold Star Feeds

Silver Sponsors:

Harry Austin Milling

NYP Ag Services Inc.

Ellicottville Brewing Company

Winery of Ellicottville

Telaak Farms

Renaissance Nutrition

Spartan Warehouse Corp.

Dechow Dairy Nutrition

Perry Vet

2026 Scholarship Winners



Hi there! My name is Olivia Shawley, and I am beyond honored to receive the 2026 Farm Bureau Scholarship. I am a 2026 graduate from Randolph Central School, and I will be attending Oklahoma State University in the fall for Agriculture Communications. My involvement in agriculture comes from my experience helping on my grandparent's dairy farm (DJ farms in Salamanca). My love for dairy inspired me to become more

involved in 4-H, FFA, Dairy Ambassadors, Dairy Judging, the Cattaraugus County Dairy Committee and so much more. Thank you for the immense support throughout the years and thank you for helping support my college education! ~Olivia Shawley

Join us at the Summer Annual Picnic, where both Olivia and our second-place winner, Kierra Knobloch of Franklinville, will receive their awards. It is of note that Olivia won both the 2026 county and district awards!



A Fireside Chat with the County President

Hello to all my fellow Farm Bureau members:

This year, we are going to start something new for us here in Cattaraugus. We are going to have a resolutions meeting. This meeting will be used to formulate and up-channel our county's resolutions to the state. "Grassroots" is the word you hear when people talk about Farm Bureau, and this meeting will be the very essence of that. We will discuss and debate issues and, if needed, formulate resolutions to send to the state Farm Bureau meeting to possibly change how Farm Bureau represents and fights for us.

From the individuals in each county to the state level and even the national level, this is what we mean by a grassroots organization. We will be having this meeting on **Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Ellicottville Cornell Cooperative building. We will provide food for all to share. Talk to all your fellow Farm Bureau members and encourage them to attend. Most people will not have a resolution, but we could use everyone's insights, knowledge and experiences. Hope to see you there!

Michael Telaak

Michael Telaak
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau President
716-969-7676

Want to contact your legislators directly?

Catt County Legislature:

Cattco.org/government/legislators

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Senator George M Borrello

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Like us on Facebook:
Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
Visit the NYFB website for updates &
information: www.NYFB.org

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	

Visit the Farm Bureau Store



Boost your swag collection and order a Farm Bureau hat, which can be personalized with your county's logo. Bulk orders accepted. Happy Farm Bureau shopping!



nyfb.keyapparelstore.com

Newsletter Questions/Comments? Contact the editor, Barb Blesy at n.blesy@gmail.com or 716-435-5400

***A Special Thank You** to Olean BOCES and Telaak Farms for their hospitality. Our previous two board meetings have been preceded by educational tours!*

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!



FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 13, 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER
28 PARKSIDE DR.
ELLICOTTVILLE, NY

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month except May and August. All members are welcome. We would love to hear your input!



SUMMER ANNUAL PICNIC

DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 19
PLACE: GIBB'S WINTERING FACILITY
9192 BROADWAY RD.
GOWANDA
TIME: DOORS OPEN @ 12:30 P.M.
EAT @ 1 P.M.

Pack up the family and come join us for a summer tradition! Catch up with friends you haven't seen in a while. Enjoy a terrific lunch. Get a legislative update. Win a door prize! Just bring a dish to pass!



AG DISCOVERY TENT

DATE: AUGUST 1-8
PLACE: CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FAIR
TIMES: 11 A.M. – 7 P.M. DAILY

We're always looking for volunteers to take a shift in the Ag Discovery Tent! Come and visit with people and tell them all about agriculture in Cattaraugus County. We will have some new and exciting things in the tent this year, in addition to a new location. Contact Amanda Dackowskyl at 716-432-9871 or ladack8489@gmail.com if you're interested.



RESOLUTIONS MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, SEPT 14
PLACE: ELLICOTTVILLE TOWN CENTER
TIME: 6:30 P.M.

Come and enjoy dinner on us as we work together to brainstorm ideas for resolutions to shape next year's policies. Have an idea of something you'd like to see done — or perhaps undone? Come and share! Don't have anything pressing on your mind? That's fine — just come and listen. You might have an opinion on something that comes up, and we need your input!

E-lobby today!

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!
Visit www.nyfb.org/engagements

Tell Mayor Mamdani to Oppose the Ban of Horse Carriages. This bill would leave hundreds without a job and harm multiple support industries.

Urge the Governor to Veto the Cannabis Wage Board Bill. This bill creates a duplicative labor oversight for cannabis production by creating a cannabis labor wage board. It also requires cannabis farmers to post on a website salary ranges for employees.

Tell the Governor to Veto the "Good Food Bill."

This bill would allow municipalities to give procurement preference to food products that meet certain standards established by a non-agricultural organization. It would allow for procurement preference in neighboring states and establish preferences in state law that don't reflect regulated production methods.

Go to NYFB.org/engagements to e-lobby on the hot issues you feel strongly about. These and other issues are available to lobby with just the click of a button!



4-H and FFA



Mini-Grants Available

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 mini-grants (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 mini-grant program even if their parents are not members!

Get an application by emailing n.blesy@gmail.com, or visit the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau webpage at nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/cattaraugus-county.

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau: By the Numbers (2026 so far)

\$2,000+: Scholarship funds raised at Ag Trivia Night

\$400: Scholarship money distributed

\$387: Money donated to other ag education related events

11: Catt Co Schools participated in Ag Literacy Week

1,332: Catt Co students reached by Ag Literacy Week

162: Regular members of Catt County Farm Bureau as of 6/8/2026

Catt Co Farm Bureau Sponsors Blue Jacket Awards

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau once again awarded Blue Jackets to local FFA students. This year's jackets were awarded to Payton Shuman from Pioneer and Leah Lincoln from Cattaraugus Little Valley. Both jackets were awarded at their schools' FFA banquets.



New in the Ag Discovery Tent!

2026 is bringing some changes to our Ag Discovery tent at the Cattaraugus County Fair. First, we have a new location near the Junior Dairy barn, the antique tractors and the 4-H snack shack. Second, we will have antique farm tools on display for people to try to identify. Third, we ran a drawing/coloring contest at local elementary schools. All drawings will be on display at the tent. Congratulations to our contest winners!

2nd Grade

1st Place – Lola N., Gowanda Elementary

2nd Place – Jude W., Gowanda Elementary

3rd Place – Joey D., Gowanda Elementary

3rd Grade

1st Place – Stella F., Hinsdale Central School

2nd Place – Ravine B., Hinsdale Central School

3rd Place – Averi H., Catt- Little Valley Elementary

4th Grade

1st Place – Maison V., Hinsdale Central School

2nd Place – Addie B., Hinsdale Central School

3rd Place – Chase W., Hinsdale Central School

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
Michael Telaak - President
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