

New York Farm Bureau FAQs

Aquaculture *is* Agriculture!

The New York Farm Bureau can work to support your efforts and lobby to make changes to enhance the aquaculture industry. By being a member *and* attending local meetings, you can raise issues to be addressed by the Farm Bureau.

1. How do I become a member?

There are 3 ways to apply for membership:

- Call 1-800-342-4143, and press "0"
- Email: membersupport@nyfb.org
- Visit www.nyfb.org/membership for more information.
- For additional membership questions, contact: Thomas Denman (tdenman@nyfb.org) or (518)431-5606

2. What is the cost of membership?

- For Long Island and NYC Counties: \$165 for the year.
- For counties north of NYC, \$110 for the year.
- Save \$5 by choosing auto-renewal and another \$6 by choosing electronic communications.

3. Can my business have multiple memberships?

Yes, there is an enterprise options which allows for multiple members from the same business. Visit www.nyfb.org/membership for more details on this.

4. Can non-profit organizations (including Universities, Tribal Nations, etc.) conducting aquaculture be members?

Yes. It is not exclusive to private businesses as long as you are producing an agriculture commodity including aquaculture products.

5. Who should I reach out to if I am interested in learning more?

The best point of contact would be your county manager. (Find at: www.nyfb.org/about/staff.) You can reach out to anyone from the NYFB and they can direct you based on your specific questions.

6. How do I find out which county bureau I am located in?

Visit www.nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau and click on your county.

7. How do I find out who my county manager is?

Visit www.nyfb.org/about/staff to see the list of 9 county manager regions.

8. What should I be doing as a member of the Farm Bureau?

Attend your local meetings and meet with other members. Discuss issues and ideas with them to see if there is some change that can be made or policy that could be developed. The Farm Bureau relies on the voice of its members to direct its policies and actions so your input is crucial.

9. How many County Farm Bureaus are there in New York?

52, almost one for every county. New York City and Long Island are considered one farm bureau, and it is the largest with about 1,000 members.

10. How many active members are in the New York Farm Bureau?

About 12,000.

11. If my business is the only aquaculture operation in my county region, will my sole voice be heard if that region is dominated mostly by a different form of agriculture?

Yes, each member has the power to raise an issue for policy change. It doesn't matter if you're the only member from a specific sector (i.e., aquaculture) in your county. Sometimes you'll need to provide additional information throughout the review process for clarification purposes. Due to the diverse nature of agriculture in New York, often an issue in one region is also an issue in another region.

12. How do I raise a topic of concern to get a policy changed or adopted?

1. Bring the topic up at your county meeting to get it submitted to the Policy Development Committee.
2. The County Policy Development Committee considers the idea. You are often required to provide background information supporting or explaining the topic.
3. Attend your annual county meeting in the fall to support your topic when it is voted on. If approved, the topic would become a local policy resolution.
4. Local policy resolutions are reviewed by the Resolutions Committee (which is made up of members from around the state) in November. It will accept, modify or reject the proposal. If accepted, it's brought to NYFB Annual Meeting in December.
5. At the annual meeting in December, delegates from each county vote on whether that topic will become actual policy. A simple majority vote is what is required.

13. How long does it take for a topic to become policy?

Topics can begin getting submitted in July and August. Counties submit policy resolutions in October which are reviewed in November. If approved that far, the topics are voted on at the annual meeting in December. This allows lobbying to begin in January on the new policies.

14. Is it possible for me to participate in lobbying events with state legislators?

Yes, every March, the NYFB hosts a "Taste NY" reception in Albany where county farm bureaus have tables and give out samples and information about the industry. The event is attended by legislators and staff, providing a great opportunity for industry members to communicate directly with them. The following day is "Lobby Day" where county farm bureaus break into groups and attend meetings with legislators to discuss issues impacting agriculture. Members would register for either or both days. County Managers make the various legislative appointments and help staff the meetings as needed.

15. Aside from lobbying for the industry, are there any other benefits NYFB provides?

- Yes, the NYFB partners with many companies such as Grainger, John Deere, Ford, and several others. These partnerships can offer you savings via discounts.
- You will receive the NYFB's bi-monthly newsletter, *Grassroots*, which provides updates on policy and congressional visits. There are also weekly electronic newsletters.
- The NYFB offers webinars to help with networking and professional development.
- The NYFB offers a worker's compensation safety group 486.
- To find more details, please visit: www.nyfb.org/member-benefits

Did you find this information useful?
Would you like to request additional webinar topics?
Please take this 4-question survey to let us know and request topics.
Visit: www.bit.ly/NYFBwebinar or scan the QR code.



This information was obtained during the recorded webinar in July of 2024 and could change at the discretion of the New York Farm Bureau. Visit www.nyfb.org to learn more.

Find additional resources at: www.nyseagrant.org/aquaculture

Compiled by:
 Barry Udelson,
 Aquaculture Specialist
aquaculture@cornell.edu

