

**Cattaraugus County**



**FARMER-NEIGHBOR  
DINNER**



**April 12, 2023**

**West Valley Fire Hall**

*West Valley, New York*



#FNDinner

[FNDinner.com](http://FNDinner.com)

*Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Cattaraugus County  
Farmer-Neighbor Dinner*

*Brought to you by:*

*Cattaraugus County IDA  
The Pillittere Group  
The Schwab Companies  
Farm Credit East, ACA*

*Cattaraugus County Agricultural  
and Farmland Protection Board*

*Cattaraugus County Department of  
Economic Development,  
Planning and Tourism*

*Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau*

*Cattaraugus County Soil and  
Water Conservation District*

# *Menu*

## *Appetizers*

*Bison Meatballs*

*Veggie Platter*

*Cheese, Cracker & Pepperoni Platter*

*Relish Platter*

*Spinach Dip*

## *Dinner*

*Salad*

*Beef*

*Turkey*

*Vegetarian Manicotti*

*Mashed Potatoes*

*Buttered Carrot Medallions*

*Harvard Beets*

*Dinner Roll*

## *Dessert*

*Carrot Cake Cupcakes*

*Brownies*

# *Program*

**5:30**      *Vendor Tables*  
*& Hors d'oeuvres*  
*Music - Homemade Jam*

**6:45**      *Dinner*  
*Buffet with locally grown*  
*foods, prepared by the West*  
*Valley Firemen's Auxiliary*

**7:45**      *Presentation of Awards*  
*- Farm of the Year*  
*- Friend of Agriculture*  
*- Pioneer Award*  
*- Conservation Farm of*  
*the Year*

# *Farm of the Year*

## *Burdick Blueberries*



**Burdick Blueberries** is a 70-acre blueberry and flower farm in the Enchanted Mountains of Cattaraugus County, 9 miles from Ellicottville, New York. The farm has 40-acres of pick-your-own blueberries. Milton Burdick established the farm in 1952 and started selling blueberries at a road-side market in 1958. When it became difficult to hire berry pickers in 1961, he decided to open the farm as a pick-your-own. Burdick's is still family-owned and operated by granddaughter, Amy Edwards.

The farm produces ten varieties of highbush blueberries and 60 varieties of cut flowers. Customers are guided through the pick-your-own experience while enjoying the peace and beauty of the farm's hillside views, catching a ride on a vintage open farm truck to and from the field. They can walk the finish-mown aisles and lawns, wander the flower garden, and shop at the Retail Shed.

Amy Edwards inherited Burdick Blueberries in 2015. Leaving behind a 30+ year career she returned to the farm, her childhood roots and favorite place on earth. She made a life changing U-turn, committed to keeping the farm in the family. In the last eight years Amy has explored the path for herself and the farm, managing the complexities of tradition and renovation, finding solutions to current challenges in blueberry production, and expanding the family's quality brand of agri-tourism. She further developed marketing for the farm with social media and her website [www.burdickblueberries.net](http://www.burdickblueberries.net).

In 2019 Amy started hosting **The Guest House at Burdick Blueberries Farm**, a year-round rental through AIRBNB and VRBO. The farm also hosts events including outdoor weddings and parties.



*Congratulations,  
Burdick Blueberries!*

# *Friend of Agriculture*

## *Pat Walker*



**Pat Walker** moved to New York in 1978 and was Dairy/ Livestock Extension agent for 6 years. She did consulting work for FMHA for 10 years and worked on her husband's family dairy farm until it was sold.

She was an Agriculture teacher/FFA advisor at Pine Valley for 4 years and an Agriculture teacher/FFA advisor at Randolph for 23 1/2 years.

Pat had 10 FFA teams win state contests and compete at National FFA convention in livestock, Milk Quality, Agronomy, Meats Evaluation, and Poultry and creed speaking contest. She also had FFA teams place second at State FFA convention and compete at the Big E in Springfield, MA, in national regional FFA contests in Milk Quality, Agronomy, Poultry, Environmental Science and Natural Resources and had second place teams in Nursery/ Landscape and Meats that weren't able to compete at the Big E. She had third place teams compete at Harrisburg regional contest in livestock and dairy evaluation.

Pat had FFA student win State Star FFA farmer and along with other county FFA advisors and 4-H, conducted the county fair judging contests and the All Around Farmer contest.

She served as the NY Association of Agricultural Educators treasurer as well as being on the Cornell Cooperative Extension board and on the Agriculture committee and a Farm Bureau member.

Pat was NY Ag Educator of the year Golden Owl finalist for 2 years.

Every year she had the FFA students conduct Food For America with the 4th graders. The FFA members were teaching them about where their food comes from and leading them on a guided tour of a local dairy farm.

She started the Randolph youth trap team at Randolph in 2008 and coached until she retired. She is now active in St Pats Altar and Rosary, and volunteers for trap and is a substitute bus driver for Randolph Central School.

Pat is married to Mike Walker and they have 3 married children and 4 grandchildren.

*Thank you, Pat, for all you do to  
support agriculture in  
Cattaraugus County!*

# *Pioneer Award*

## *Ellicottville Distillery*



**Ellicottville Distillery** opened in 2016 offering a homegrown approach to the age-old practice of distilling. Charlie Bares, owner of Mallard's Dairy in Lyndon, and Bryan Scharf, of Ellicottville, started this enterprise in 2014.

The distillery uses locally sourced ingredients to create high quality spirits and flavored liqueurs. 75% come directly from Cattaraugus County, using everything from grain, honey, cider, and maple syrup to bottle or glass in the production of their spirits. The spent grain from the Distillery is sent back to be used on Charlie's farm for complete recycle of the grain.

When they first opened they offered a clear whiskey and vodka. Since then they have grown to ten different products including Appleshine, Blueberry Vodka, Gin and a Maple Bourbon Crème. Bryan Scharf attended the Great American International Spirits Competition where their Straight Bourbon received a gold medal and the Maple Bourbon Crème and Appleshine both received bronze.

They intend to grow the tasting room at the Distillery and supplement with events and rentable spaces. They plan to continue with Bourbon and Whiskeys with the addition of a rickhouse as they currently have over 100 barrels aging.



*Congratulations,  
Ellicottville Distillery*

# *Conservation Farm of the Year*

## *Durow Farms*



The Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation District has selected **Durow Farms** for the 2023 Conservation Farm of the Year Award. Durow Farms is a fifth-generation family owned and operated dairy farm located in the Town of Randolph. Mike, Dawn, and family utilize every available acre in a productive and responsible manner. The farm includes the 200-cow dairy and heifer operation, as well as a maple syrup enterprise. Since the early 1990's when Mike and Dawn took over management of the farm, it has implemented such practices as conservation field strips, reduced tillage, and rotational grazing.

The farm is particularly good with its forage production system of corn for silage and high-quality grass haylage. The high quality, high yielding forages results in high milk production and healthy cows while minimizing off-farm feed purchases. They follow a very tight rotation of corn followed by a seeding of clover/grass with a nurse crop of oats. This practice, along with the field strips, and conservation tillage, helps to minimize the erosion on highly erodible fields.

The nutrient value of manure is utilized to its maximum potential. With the help of funding procured by Cattaraugus County SWCD and NRCS they constructed a short-term waste storage and transfer system in 2019 that allows them to avoid spreading when there is inclement weather. They also installed a buffer and roof runoff structures to prevent runoff to nearby waterways. The farm was one of the founding members of the Western NY Crop Management, which helps the farm implement its nutrient management and integrated pest management plans (NMP and IPM).

The farm uses sound timber management practices to get the most out of their woods in lumber as well as sap for the maple operation.

Not only does the farm take good care of its resources, but it is also a Dairy of Distinction and has hosted Randolph FFA tours of the farm for elementary students.

*Congratulations,*  
*Durow Farms*

## *Event Donors*

*CCIDA*

*Car-Bu Farms, LLC*

*Merritt Winery*

*Upstate Milk*

*Ellicottville Greens*

*Ford Brothers*

*Native Offerings Farm*

*Desserts by:*

*Mad Crazy Batter*

*3 C's Catering*

## *Agriculture Advocates*

*Benz's Sugar Shanty LLC*

*C&A Hardwoods LLC*

*Cattaraugus County Attorney's Office*

*Cattaraugus County EDPT*

*Cattaraugus County Department Heads*

*Cattaraugus County Legislators*

*Cattaraugus County Soil & Water*

*Cornell Co-Op Ext of Cattaraugus*

*Elkdale View Farms*

*Ginger Schroeder & Mark Heberling -*

*D/B/A Waverly Pond Farm*

*Hill's Valley Farm*

*La Tudelana II*

*Maple Ridge Bison Farm*

*Perfectly Blended Family*

*Telaak Farms, LLC*

*Town of Persia*

*West Valley Chamber of Commerce*

*Wishing Star Farm*

# *Thank You to our Exhibitors:*

*Cattaraugus County EDPT*

*Cattaraugus County Soil & Water Conservation District*

*Cattaraugus County Cornell Co-op Ext.*

*Cattaraugus County Dairy Ambassadors*

*Dairy Farmers of America*

*Erie and Niagara Insurance*

*Evans Agency*

*Farm Bureau*

*Farm Credit East ACA*

*Lake Erie Watershed Protection Agency*

*Nannen Arboretum*

*NY Sustainable Ag Working Group*

*Randolph FFA*

*The Schwab Companies*

*Special Thank You to:*

*West Valley Volunteer Hose Company  
and the West Valley Firemen's Auxiliary*

# *Past Award Winners*

## *Farm of the Year*

2012 Telaak Farms  
2014 Sprague's Maple Farms  
2016 Angus Hill Farm  
2018 Hills Valley Farm  
2020/2021 Gibbs Apiaries

2013 Pine Villa Farm  
2015 Canticle Farm  
2017 Pumpkinville  
2019 Native Offerings  
2022 D-J Farm

## *Friend of Agriculture*

2012 Lisa Kempisty  
2014 Charlesworth Family  
2016 Jim Ellis  
2018 Jack Searles  
2020/2021 John Busekist

2013 Rick Miller  
2015 Joan Petzen  
2017 Lloyd "Ev" Webster  
2019 Chuck & Phyllis Couture  
2022 Brian and Jean Davis

## *Conservation Farm of the Year*

2012 Nichols Farm  
2014 Tim Ploetz Farm  
2016 R&D Adams Dairy Farm  
2018 Bliss Dairy Company  
2020/2021 Colonial Hill Farms

2013 Pimm's View Dairy  
2015 Triple R Farms  
2017 Blesy Farm  
2019 Woloszyn Farm

## *Ag Legacy Award*

2017 Joe & Jeannie Pagett  
2022 Bill and Jean Jones

2018 Barb Andera

## *Pioneer Award*

2019 Hi Y Farm

2022 Maple Ridge Bison Ranch

## *Volunteer Appreciation Award*

2022 Homemade Jam

# 2023 Farmer-Neighbor Sponsors

## Premier

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*Cattaraugus County IDA  
Farm Credit East, ACA*

*The Pillittere Group  
The Schwab Companies*

## Platinum

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*CCE of Cattaraugus County  
The Evans Agency LLC*

*West Valley Environmental  
Services*

## Gold

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*Catt Co Soil & Water  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Erie & Niagara Insurance  
Gabel's IBA  
Lake Erie Watershed Protection  
Alliance  
New Eagle Silo*

*Perry Veterinary Clinic  
Seneca Trail RC&D Council  
Southern Tier West/NYSAWG  
Wild Acres Family Farm  
WNY Crop Management Assoc.*

## Silver

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*ERA Team VP Real Estate*

*Nannen Arboretum*

## Bronze

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*Java Farm Supply, Inc.*

*Ortel Supply Inc.*





# CATTARAUGUS COUNTY IDA





Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Cattaraugus County



*Thank you!*

*From the Cattaraugus County Agricultural  
and Farmland Protection Board*

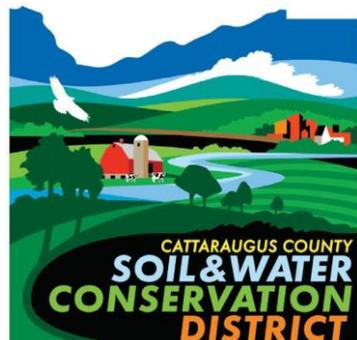
*Cattaraugus County  
Department of  
Economic Development,  
Planning and Tourism*



*Cattaraugus County  
Farm Bureau*



*Cattaraugus County  
Soil and Water  
Conservation District*





*See you at  
next year's Dinner...  
April 10, 2024*



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