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LWV Chautauqua County  
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# The Leaguer

Volume 24, Issue 4  
January, 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
[lww@lwwchautauqua.org](mailto:lww@lwwchautauqua.org), 672-4275

## No Farms - No Food

### Getting the Dirt on Farming in Chautauqua County

CHAUTAUQUA GROWN

January 29, 2020



11:30 Meet and Greet  
12:00 Luncheon  
Mustard Seed Restaurant  
31 East Main Street, Fredonia

Topics will cover:

- The 2019 Farm Bill
- Small vs Industrial Farms
- Climate Change: Impact & Mitigation on Farming

## Our Speakers...

**Kaitlyn Whalen** graduated from Alfred University in 2013 with a Master's in Business Administration and Accounting. She spent a year as a staff accountant before coming back to the family farm (Peterson Farm). We have 100 head of beef cattle, 30 head at any given time of pigs, and 60 head of meat goats. We also grow all our own hay and corn for use as feed for our livestock. A roadside store outside Jamestown with greenhouses, Scandinavian Foods, Scandinavian Gift shop, Coffee Roastery (Dalahast Roasting Co), and seasonal local produce. She sits on the board of the Chautauqua County Farm Bureau, Chautauqua County Beef Producers, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ag Programming Board, and the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.

**James Joy's** first experience with farming was grapes, field crops and tending livestock began at age five. At the age of fifteen he planted his first grape vineyard. In 1976 he began farming full time, as a third generation operator of his family farm. Jim graduated from Fredonia High School and later graduated from LEADNY; a leadership Development for professionals in the food, agricultural and natural resources industries, house within Cornell's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He describes himself as a perpetual reader and learner.

In 1984 a Farm crisis lead him into different paths of employment. He was back in the farming business in the early 1990's as a seasonal field represent for Welch's. He moved on to being the area #1 Region Manager for the National Grape Cooperative. Along with this duty he is the proprietor of J M Joy Farm along with his wife Rosie Joy. At present he also partners with his son in Joy Harvesting LLC. Jim is a participant in many civic activities including; town of Pomfret planning board, Chautauqua County Farm Bureau as director, New York State Wine Grape Growers Director, Lake Erie Management Commission as a agriculture representative and the Chautauqua County Farmland Protection Board member.

**Steve Rockcastle's** education background is in the horticultural industry. He graduated from MSU and owned and operated a greenhouse/florist business for 25 years. After marrying in 2005, I moved to Sherman NY where he and his wife hosts "The Great Blue Heron Music Festival" since 1992. We had concerns with managing the property with mowing and using large amounts of petrol chemicals to do that. Our solution was to put animals on the land to help maintain the property and improve the soils. Horticulture and farming have similar cross over knowledge related requirements so the learning curve was not too hard to develop.

They initially started by raising broiler chickens on pasture using the moveable chicken tractor methodology that puts chickens on pasture eating live grass and bugs as well as organic feeds being moved twice daily. The pastures are certified organic and the production of the birds is certified organic as well.

The second phase of the farm development was to raise 100% grass fed beef and the method of production is to use rotational grazing. This means that during the grazing period of May to December, cows are moved daily to a fresh nutritious piece of grass. This allows them to get optimum nutrition through its growing time. In the winter months our animals are retained in an open sided barn and receive baleage taken from the land in the summer months.

### Chautauqua County Agricultural Facts (from the 2007 Census of Agriculture)

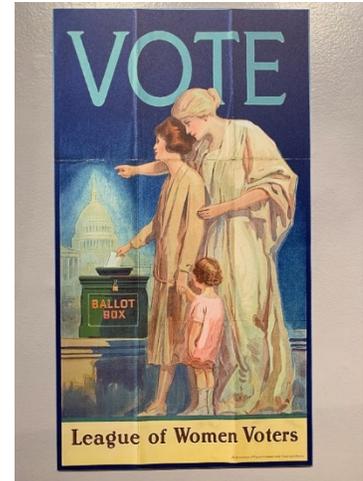
There are 235,858 acres in farms, 35% of the county's total acreage.

- The average size of a farm is 142 acres.
- There are 1,648 farms.
- Livestock sales account for \$80,768,000 or 58% of the total agricultural sales.
- Crop sales account for \$57,810,000 or 42%.
- The average sales per farm is \$83,581.
- For every dollar of income created by the agricultural industry, \$2.29 is generated in the community. The total of this is \$317,436,620.
- There are 887 principal operators of farms.

From the President

**The League of Women Voters is one hundred years old.** While other groups that promoted enfranchisement faded the LWV has persisted. Our mission is to promote voting rights, participation in voting, education, and fair and free elections. The League is political, but non-partisan. It never supports political parties or candidates, but it does study issues, develop consensus positions, and then actively works to support those positions. As Carrie Chapman Catt noted in 1919, *“Is the (League) political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as other women to join and vote with the party of their choice. They make no pledge otherwise in joining the League.”*

It is that time of year that we will be discussing legislative priorities and it is important as a member to be a part of this process. Our local League is asked to provide input into the development of priorities for the state office for the next legislative session. What members and local leagues feel about issues is important. This does not mean the League will not monitor and lobby on other issues. We will need to submit our legislative priorities by February 1, 2020. Please have ideas ready by our next meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mustard Seed. Examples of legislative priorities would be Redistricting, Campaign Finance Reform, Financing of Healthcare, and Climate.



We will be sending one student to Albany this year in May. Contact us if you know a student that might be a good fit for this experience. We would like the student to be a junior so that he or she could help out the next year with recruiting. The student can be from any high school in Chautauqua County.

Early Voting in Chautauqua County was a success! This has been a priority for the LWVNY. The county had three locations in Dunkirk, Mayville, and Jamestown. The new voting equipment worked well. Thank you to everyone who filled out a survey. We shared our results with the State League and the local Board of Elections.

We are a partner group for the New York Counts – Census. The Census serves as the nation’s leading provider of quality data about its people and economy. The Census Bureau is the federal government’s largest statistical agency. They are a scientific organization focused on data. Many people do not understand the importance of the census. Our goal for the census is to make sure Western New York receives the political representation and federal funding to which it’s entitled and that our citizens understand the importance of the Census data. Personally identifiable data is not shared until 72 years after it is collected. Federal housing, education, health care, and infrastructure programs are at stake. You can encourage people to fill out the form either on line or they can use the paper form if that is their preference. Find help for those who don’t have the language or literary skills to fill the form out. The citizenship question is not on the final forms that will go out.

Please read the section about the Constitutional Convention position update.

Sincerely,  
Mary Croxton  
President LWV Chautauqua  
679-1774

**THIS WILL BE YOUR THE LAST  
LEAGUER...**

if you have not renewed by the end of  
this month!

## New York State Voting Reforms

New York State recently passed a series of new voting reforms that makes it easier for residents of New York State to vote. Adding to these reforms, Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature recently enacted a new law that allows voters to elect or change their political party enrollment in a more timely manner. Enrollment in a political party allows a voter to participate in that party's primary elections. **Voters in New York State may now choose to enroll in a political party, or change their political party enrollment, at any time up until February 14** and the change will be effective immediately. Previously, voters could make this change up until October 11 and the enrollment change went into effect the following year.

**New York's presidential primary will take place on April 28, 2020, and the congressional and state primary will take place on June 23, 2020.** If you would like to vote in any of the party's primaries, you must be enrolled in that political party and you have until February 14, 2020 to enroll or change your designation.

Currently, there is no separate form to be filled out to change a voter's political party enrollment. Rather, a voter must use the current voter registration form to do so. The registration form has a section where the voter may choose to enroll in a political party. To find out if you are registered to a political party, visit <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov>. Voter registration forms, including online forms, can be found on the New York State Board of Elections website at <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>. The website also has other important information about voter registration.

Get the Dirt on Farming in Chautauqua County

January 29, 2020

11:30 Meet and Greet

12:00 Luncheon

Mustard Seed Restaurant, 31 East Main Street, Fredonia

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Rachel Sandwich (turkey, sauerkraut, melted swiss cheese with thousand island dressing on marbled rye bread)

Vegetali Ciabatta (eggplant, artichokes, black beans, roasted garlic tomatoes, asiago and pepper jack cheeses, grilled with greek marinade.

Includes cup of vegetarian chili soup, dessert, coffee, tea or soft drink.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be in by January 22.

Reservations to Nicki Schoenl. Send form and \$15 payment to 2716 Rt. 39, Forestville, New York 14062 E-mail [schoenl@netsync.net](mailto:schoenl@netsync.net). Or call 679-1258.

### Local Musicians Play at the League of Women Voters (LWV) Centennial Celebration

On November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Buffalo History Museum a cello quartet from Fredonia Central School made up of Owyn Darrell-Sterbak, Adeliz Gottinger, Tegenya Graziano, and Amelia Harper played at the League of Women Voters centennial celebration along with separate performances by Trevor Napoli, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade pianist, from Fredonia Central School and the New Horizons flute duo of Mary M. Fogarty and Carol Corcoran. All of these people are accomplished musicians and the LWV are appreciative of their time and talents.



The League of Women Voters of New York State was 100 years old on November 19, 2019; the LWV of the United States will be 100 years old on February 14 2020. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the vote was officially added to the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. Women in the State of New York got the vote on November 6, 1917.



The LWV began as a way to make sure the newly enfranchised women voters knew their rights and, just as important, their responsibilities. The League is proud of its rich history tied to the suffrage movement before Seneca Falls in 1848, and the years of struggle after that meeting.

The LWV continues to encourage all voters to be informed and actively participate in government. It has also been an organization entrusted to register and inform voters, moderate candidate events, and to educate and engage the public. The League is also a recognized leader in advocating for an ethical, transparent, and representative government.

### Constitutional Convention Position Update

The purpose of this update is to determine whether there is member agreement on deleting the first sentence of the League's 1993 constitutional convention position, as revised June 2015.

The sentence to be deleted is :” The League of Women Voters of New York State does not support or oppose the holding of a constitutional convention.”

A YES vote on the update will delete the first sentence and confirm the authority of the state Board to either support or oppose a future referendum for a state constitutional convention based on the criteria in the position.

A No vote will leave the position as currently written. Under the new Study and Update Process adopted by the board this spring and attached as Appendix B, members, local leagues and ILOs may suggest a future update to this position.

The New York State constitution can only be change by amendments approved by two consecutively elected state Legislatures, or through a constitutional convention convened by a specific process described in Article XIX of the constitution. That Article provides that every 20 years the public has a chance to vote on the question of whether to hold a constitutional convention. The Legislature can place the question on the ballot at any time. There are three public votes involved in the constitutional convention process.

1. Whether to hold the convention,
2. The election of delegates, and
3. Approval of any amendments to the constitution.

This was an important issue for many of our members. Please let our Board know what your position is. [mcroxtton51@gmail.com](mailto:mcroxtton51@gmail.com)  
We will discuss this issue at a future meeting of the League membership.

## WHAT IS THE FARM BILL?

The farm bill connects the food on our plates, the farmers and ranchers who produce that food, and the natural resources – our soil, air and water – that make growing food possible.

The farm bill is a package of legislation passed roughly once every five years, which has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, and what kinds of foods are grown. Covering programs ranging from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families, from beginning farmer training to support for sustainable farming practices, the farm bill sets the stage for our food and farm systems. Every five years, the farm bill expires and is updated: proposed, debated, and passed by Congress and then signed into law by the President. The farm bill got its start in 1933 as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. Its three original goals – to keep food prices fair for farmers and consumers, ensure an adequate food supply, and protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources – responded to the economic and environmental crises of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. Although the farm bill has changed in the last 70 years, its primary purposes are the same.

The farm bill's sections are called titles.

**Title 1: Commodities.** The Commodities Title covers price and income supports for the farmers who raise widely-produced and traded crops, like corn, soybeans, wheat, and rice – as well as dairy and sugar.

**Title 2: Conservation.** The Conservation Title covers programs that help farmers implement natural resource conservation efforts on working lands like pasture and cropland, land retirement programs, and easement programs. The title also includes resource conservation requirements for participation in commodity and crop insurance programs and helps institutions and community organizations provide farmers with conservation technical assistance.

**Title 3: Trade.** The Trade Title covers food exports and international food aid programs.

**Title 4: Nutrition.** The Nutrition Title covers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] – also known as food stamps – as well as a variety of smaller nutrition programs to help low-income Americans afford food for their families.

**Title 5: Credit.** The Credit Title covers federal loan programs designed to help farmers access the financial credit (via direct loans as well as loan guarantees and other tools) they need to grow and sustain their farming operations.

**Title 6: Rural Development.** The Rural Development Title covers programs that help foster rural economic growth through rural business and community development (including farm businesses), housing, and infrastructure improvement.

**Title 7: Research, Extension, and Related Matters.** The Research Title covers farming and food research, education, and extension programs designed to support innovation, from state university-affiliated research to vital training for the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

**Title 8: Forestry.** The Forestry Title covers forest-specific conservation, creating incentives and programs that help farmers and rural communities to be stewards of forest resources.

**Title 9: Energy.** The Energy Title covers programs that encourage growing and processing crops for biofuel; help farmers, ranchers and business owners install renewable energy systems; and support research related to energy.

**Title 10: Specialty Crops & Horticulture.** The term “specialty crops” refers to fruits, vegetables, nuts, and nursery crops, including organic produce. This title covers farmers market and local food programs, funding for research and infrastructure specific to those “specialty crops”, and organic research and certification programs.

**Title 11: Crop Insurance.** The Crop Insurance Title provides premium subsidies to farmers and subsidies to the private crop insurance companies who provide federal crop insurance to farmers, as well as providing USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) with the authority to research, develop, and modify a variety of crop- and revenue-based insurance policies.

**Title 12: Miscellaneous.** The Miscellaneous Title brings together advocacy and outreach programs for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers; agricultural labor safety and workforce development; and livestock health.



February 18 Luncheon – “Global Fascism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Historical Perspective”  
 Professor Sasha Pack, University at Buffalo, Department of History. Clarion Hotel

March TBA Luncheon – “Healthcare: Single-Payer Medicare for All”, Linda Andrei, MD

April 20 Luncheon – “Fair Housing”, Jill Casey, HUD, and Jessica Mallon, Chicago, Doubletree, Jamestown

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

 An advertisement for Kniti Gritti Works. On the left is a photograph of a whimsical pottery piece: a light blue, ruffled skirt sits on a pair of legs wearing white socks and red shoes, with a small dark grey cat-like figure at its feet. To the right of the image, the text reads:
 

**Kniti Gritti Works**  
 Whimsical Pottery  
  
**Marcia Merrins**  
 Home 716-672-4275  
 Cell 716-665-1221

**Fairmount House**  
 ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, GIFTS  
 12 E. Fairmount Ave. Lakewood  
 708-8549

 An advertisement for Lisa Mertz. At the top is a teal circular logo containing a white hand with a heart in the palm. Below the logo, the text reads:
 

**Lisa Mertz**  
 Licensed Massage Therapist  
 NY 8921 • PA MSG003857 • FL MA23506  
  
 Contemporary Western Massage Therapy  
 Deep Tissue • Hot Stones • Reiki  
 Massage for People with Diagnosis of Cancer  
  
 LMertz@icloud.com  
 (716) 708-5675  
 Mayville, NY

 An advertisement for The 1891 Fredonia Opera House. It features a white fan-shaped logo on a black background. The text reads:
 

The 1891  
**Fredonia  
 Opera House**  
 679-1981 [www.fredopera.org](http://www.fredopera.org)

**DARWIN'S**  
**Health Club, Inc.**  
**43-57 Water Street, Fredonia**  
**679-1591**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



*The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.*

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard!  
Join Us Today!

**League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County**

Mary Croxton, President  
Nancy Boynton  
Gail Crowe  
Marcia Johnson  
Pat Kirell  
Marcia Merrins  
Lisa Mertz  
Karen Mills-Court

Membership Form

Mail to:  
LWV Chautauqua  
P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2020 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90;  
Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to get involved with:

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Issues \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Service \_\_\_\_\_ State/National Issues

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Newsletter

\_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: \_\_\_\_\_