



**NY Beef Producers' Association  
Annual Membership Meeting  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

*DoubleTree by Hilton, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse, NY 13057*

1. Call to order – Zack Welker, meeting called to order at 4:37pm
  - a. In attendance: Zack Welker, Katie Mitrowski, Brenda Dermody, Betsy Hicks, Becky Krone, Skip Lear, Joe Lawler, Roxanne Lawler, Frank Stoltzfus, Carlos Valery, Jr, Ben Whittemore, Kylee Bowker, Meghan Potter, Hermann Weber, Laura Weber, Thomas Miller, Jerry Emerich, Andrew King, JoAnne King, Anna Scoralick, Brendan Scoralick, Nicole Tommell, Bob Lehman, Brenda Lehman, Ryan McLenithan, PJ Trowbridge, Tyler Covert, Leah Covert, Paul Shapero, John W, Scott Ward, Kari Ward, Ashley Scoones, Chrissy Claudio, JC Kinton, Peter Lehning, Bill Morrow, Kate Morrow, Shaun Gilliland, Joe Lipiec, Bonnie Bargstedt, John Dukelow, Phillip Dukelow, Brett Chedzoy, Maria Chedzoy, Bruce Harrington, Sharon Harrington, Lavern Warriner, Katelyn Card-Allen, L Carpenter Jr, Shannon Carpenter, Landon Carpenter Jr, Phil Keppler, David Schubel, Constance Young, Melissa Fetterman, Tristan Tiffany, Adam Murray, Tim Dennis, Scott Betts, Justin Betts, Chase Gerhardt, Mandy Gerhardt, Andrew Hinkley, Heidi Hinkley, Reed Mitrowski, Erin Perkins, Amanda Dackowsky, Marcia S, Leslie Mesch, Jolene MEsche, Heidi Nicholas, Philip Paradis, Jeanne White, Sue Olson, Steve Olson, Kyle Coryn, John Kriese, Sam C, Robert Groom, Ric Coombe, Patrick Coombe, Sydney Antona, Rich Blazeski, Kevin Hultslander, Gina Hulstander, Kimberly Travis, Mike Reese, Kevin Leach, David Miller, William Schonfeld, Allison Schonfeld, Bill Moody, Patsy Moody, John Vanderwerken, Mattea Vander werken, Bryce Schuster, Craig Schuster, Hadlee Bowken, Madalyn Moody, Lane Nordlund.
2. Welcoming Special Guests & Past Presidents – Katie Mitrowski welcomed keynote speaker Lane Nordlund, NCBA Frank Stoltzfuts, Past President Skip Lear, and thanked all for being here today and commitment to the organization.
3. Approve or change Agenda – Zack Welker asked for motion. Joe Lawler moved to approve agenda, seconded by Carlos Velery. All in favor, motion carried.
4. Approve Last Annual meeting minutes. Zack Welker asked for motion. Andrew King moved to approve. Seconded by Rich Blazeski. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Reports
  - a. President's report – Zack thanked everybody for being here and for a great year. Encouraged everybody to reach out with ideas and to help at events through the year.
  - b. Treasurer's report – Brenda Dermody shared reports distributed on tables

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- i. Junior report shared.
  - ii. Scholarship report shared.
  - iii. Brenda asked for approval of reports. Roxanne Lawler moved, Will Schonfeld seconded.
  - iv. 2026 Budget shared. John motioned, seconded by Laverne Warner. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Executive Secretary report – Becky reporting:
- i. Welcomed everybody to the conference and recognized everybody’s dedication. This year’s conference was heavily planned through feedback from last year’s conference. Welcoming 200 attendees and over 30 vendors. Live auction after our Keynote speech.
  - ii. New Raffle for the conference – first place is \$3000 towards a NY heifer, second place is a NYBPA branded cooler, and third place is a NYBPA branded tumbler and wine basket. To participate, pull a tag, and pay the dollar amount that you pull. (eg - Tag 175 is \$175)
  - iii. Newsletter deadline is Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - iv. Thanked volunteers, sponsors and speakers. Looking forward to 2026.
  - v. NY Farm Show is a week later than normal – seeking volunteers to serve beef sundaes and work the booth. NYBC and 5 breed associations will be there. Thanked the Glennisters & Brenda D for their help. Profited last year over \$9k.
  - vi. Supreme Female Show successful in 2025. 29 counties and 38 head of cattle participating. Purina official sponsor, 11 division sponsors, 6 reception sponsors. Warren Bippert Scholarship awarded at show, winners of the show announced.
  - vii. Beef Day at the fair – 5 interviews by TV Stations
  - viii. Policy update – Policy Committee has been working hard for many hours over the year. Recognized members of the committee
  - ix. Scholarship update – updated rubric, recognized members that worked on these updates to the program
- d. NYJBPA – Anna Scoralick reporting. Spring Preview show, 180 cattle at Erie County Fairgrounds. Members very active over the year in various shows. Fall Festival in Cobleskill, 125 head of cattle. Thanked NYBC BQA program for sponsorship of Skillathon at contests.
- e. Cornell Advisor’s Report – Adam Murray reporting. Went to Texas w/ Cornell 11 undergrads to feedlots and processing plants, ET program, bull studs – exciting to head the Beef Club. Went to Denver to the NWSS w/ 3 students and did well. Brought back Beef Production Course, students hungry to learn more. Looking forward to meeting those he hasn’t yet and a good weekend.
- f. NY Beef Council Report – Ashely Scoones reporting. Shared slides of highlights in 2025, also shared on vendor table. Reached 276 million consumers – NY Producer spotlights, nearly 3,000 youth engaged, and 3 media spots. Ads shown

in NYC over 1.56 million times. 124 producers hosted at S&S event in Hamburg. NYC Wine & Food Festival engaged w/ beef producers. Beef Day at the Capitol in 2025 in May is Beef Month. Next Beef Day is May 13, 2026.

- g. BQA Report – Chrissy Claudio reporting. BQA built momentum -392 producers certified for first or returning certification. Welcomed Adam Murray as Co-coordinator for BQA. Collaborated w/ other BQA's for biosecurity training. Hosted Skillathons at contests.
  - h. CBB Report – John Kriese reporting. Exciting year, 2025 was great for consumer demand. Thanked producers on behalf of CBB board for connecting with producers. Talked about food pyramid, beef x dairy, checkoff dollars. Looking forward to CattleCon.
  - i. Herd Builder Sale – Skip Lear reporting. May 3, 2025 last sale, in conjunction with Trowbridge Bull Sale. Grossed over \$63000, 23 consignment lots. Thanked everyone who helped with the Herd Builder Sale & Meat Raffle Fundraiser, especially Trowbridge, Canandaigua Stockyards & DV auction
  - j. Beef Farm of Excellence Award Program – Betsy Hicks reporting. Fourth year in program, need help from NYBPA for keeping program going. Thanked Becky for her help, and Trowbridge Farms for sponsorship of the signs again this year.
  - k. Policy Report – Joe Lawler reporting. Encouraged members to interact with the committee because policy brought forward should be the members' voice. Policy proposals brought forward might be “vanilla” but are key things that the committee believes in.
  - l. Scholarship Report – Adam Murray reporting. Talked about scholarship fundraising in the past and thanked past efforts. Wanted to improve scholarship structure & format based on conversations with Executive Board, issued a challenge to revamp the scholarship program. Committee will consist of the past president, scholarship chair and a NYBPA member at large. Will receive applications, judge on a rubric – 100 points. Emphasizes NYBPA involvement and NYJBPA involvement over time – 30%, 15% general ag involvement, 15% essay, 15% community service, 15% scholastic achievement, 10% letter of recommendation. Will be a voted upon amount every year, dollar amount awarded is based on how many points they earn. Long term goal is to put away money in an account so the award can be given on interest earned, not the money fundraised so the program can be funded long term.
6. Regional Reports
- a. Region 2 – Katie Card-Allen planning meeting in late spring
  - b. Region 6 – Betsy Hicks, 2 meetings in 2025, and a BQA event in November 2025, planning late spring meeting with Adam Murray
  - c. Region 7 – Joe Lawler, 9 new members, 8 formal/informal meetings, had Adam Murray out to speak, big help from Cornell Extension folks to get meetings to happen

- d. Region 11 – Carlos Valery, talked about vaccinations. Planning meeting in March talking about nutrition and reproduction, planning meeting in April/May on how to choose replacements. Looking for participation from other counties, not just Delaware.
  - e. Region 12 – Ryan McLenithan, 2025 meeting, BQAT meeting with DOT officers. Planning to have more meetings this year.
  - f. Region 13 – Rich Blazeski planning a BQA meeting in October.
  - g. Becky encouraged everyone to hold meetings and be involved, or step down as chair of region if not wanting to do the duties in relation to regional needs.
7. Old Business - none
8. New Business – Zack gave guidelines for how proposals will be presented.
- a. Vote on NYBPA Proposed Policy – Zack read proposal, handed out at tables and shown on screen. Zack asked for amendments to proposed policy. Adam Murray would like to amend under definition of beef to change “actual livestock” to “cattle” from farmers. Also would like to amend beef as a recommended protein source – to remove the listing of nutrients. Becky made live edits on screen.
    - i. Connie Young moves to accept first amendment, seconded by Ric Coombe. All in favor, motion carries.
    - ii. Zack asked for a motion for the second amendment, moved by Jerry, seconded by Phil. All in favor, motion carries.
    - iii. Zack asked for movement to adopt NYBPA Proposed Policy. Motion by Andrew King, seconded by Steve Olson. All in favor, motion carried.
  - b. Frank Stolfuz commended all for making things happen with policy.
  - c. NYBPA Proposed By-law Updates – Zack read proposed amendments, handed out on tables, and shown on screen.
    - i. Article VII Section 1 - Brendan moved, seconded by Rick Blazeski. All in favor, motion carries.
    - ii. Article VI Section 2 – Motion by Skip Lear, second by Peter Lenning. All in favor, motion carries.
    - iii. Addition to the Bylaws – Article VII Section 3 – motion by Tim Dennis, seconded by Ryan McLenithan. Question from Andrew King on whether the Mission Statement of the Policy Committee Exists. This exists. All in favor, motion carries.
    - iv. Mission Statement of the Policy Committee was shown and read to the membership.
9. Other Issues and Concerns
- a. Tom asked about NCBA Convention. Becky shared that it’s Feb 3-5 in Nashville, NYBPA got “Goalmaker” Status with NCBA.
    - i. Joe Lawler going as part of the Policy Committee, paid for by the Goalmaker status. Betsy going as affiliate member in place of Becky. Expecting 10k registrations this year.

- ii. Frank representing Region 1 (NE of US) took the floor, 8 affiliates participating. Regional meeting is outside of Conference on Sunday afternoon. Policy meeting on 10am Monday morning. Region 1 meeting 1:30 Monday afternoon. This is Frank's last meeting, will have the opportunity to vote on new Region 1 VP. Region 1 meeting will be in Mount Joy, PA this year on Sep 15 & 16.
  - iii. Bonnie B invited all to Novonesis reception on Tuesday evening at NCBA
  - iv. Point of order to recite Pledge of Allegiance
10. Next Meeting –
- a. NYBPA Council meeting – March 14<sup>th</sup> @ Lotts in Seneca Falls, 10am
  - b. 2027 Annual Meeting – January 22-23, 2027, Location TBD
11. Adjourn – motion by Ric Coombe, Seconded by Tom Miller to adjourn at 6:06pm.