

## **Long Island Farm Bureau Annual Awards Gala**

Long Island Farm Bureau's Annual Awards Gala will be held on November 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Polish Hall in Riverhead. This year we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Long Island Farm Bureau

Our honorees this year are Karen Rivara, owner of Aeros Cultured Oyster Company in Southold, with the "Amherst Davis Memorial Farmer Citizen of the Year Award" and Vito Minei, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, with the "Long Island Farm Bureau Citizen Award." Tickets are \$75.00 and are available by calling the LIFB Office at 631-727-3777 or emailing Carol at [cjenkins@lifb.com](mailto:cjenkins@lifb.com) We hope you are able to join us to kick off our next 100 years of service to the agricultural industry.

### **Amherst Davis Farmer Citizen Award**

Karen Rivara was inspired to be a Marine Biologist while watching the "Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau" on television when she was twelve. She graduated from Southampton College LIU in 1981 with a degree in Marine Science. She began working at the Shinnecock Tribe Oyster Project in 1983 as a Research Technician for Dr. Robert Malouf, MSRC, SUNY Stony Brook, where Karen fell in love with shellfish farming. Karen worked in commercial hatcheries, before starting Aeros Cultured Oyster Company, Inc., with her business partner, Jim Markow 1994. She is a founding member of the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative (2000), East End Marine Farmers Association (2001) and the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association (2002), and on the Agricultural Advisory Committee for Southold. Karen was actively involved in advocating on behalf of all shellfish growers for access to underwater lands in Peconic Bay and helped to start the Peconic Bay Leasing Program through Suffolk County. Karen is a past president of Long Island Farm Bureau as well as serving as an Executive Committee member and on other various committees of Long Island Farm Bureau. Karen enjoys spending time outdoors and wants to see agriculture remain viable on Long Island. Karen and her husband, Gregg, have 3 daughters, Kari, Kristie, and Kayla, and a grandson Colton.

### **Long Island Farm Bureau Citizen Award**

Vito Minei has been Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, since 2010, and has managed the largest of the 57 Cooperative Extension Associations in New York State. The organization is dedicated to delivering research-based information to residents, schools, governmental agencies, and businesses to enhance environmental preservation, strengthen families and communities, foster economic development and promote sustainable agriculture. Prior to Vito's current position he was the Director of the Division of Environmental Quality, at Suffolk County Department of Health Services pertaining to water resources, pollution control, wastewater and environmental management, and ecology. Vito has been a force for the agricultural industry throughout his career by taking a pragmatic approach to solving issues while balancing the ongoing concerns of agriculture as well as the environment. Vito likes to play golf and is an avid supporter of local. Vito and his wife Lorraine have two daughters, Vanessa & Valerie, and a new grandson Everett Slayton born in May of this year.