



NEWS FROM NEW YORK FARM BUREAU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 29, 2016

New York Farm Bureau Disappointed in Governor's Veto of Farmer Food Donation Tax Credit Bill

"During this season of giving, New York Farm Bureau is profoundly disappointed in Governor Cuomo's veto of a bill that would encourage greater farmer food donations to people in need across the state. The bill would have established a food donation tax credit up to 25% of the wholesale price of the food, not to exceed \$5,000 annually per farmer. This would help offset the cost of labor, packaging and transportation to get the food to regional food banks. The bi-partisan bill passed by the legislature and information provided to the Governor since, have addressed the Governor's concerns in his veto message, which was nearly identical to his 2015 veto message. The current bill established a workable program. More so, the Governor's assertion that this would be "duplicative of existing tax benefits available for charitable food donations" is inaccurate as the current law benefits large corporations and grocery store chains and not the state's family farms. His justification for vetoing this bill remains baffling.

Last year, New York's farmers donated approximately 13 million pounds of food to regional food banks through the Harvest for All program, and next week during our State Annual Meeting, we will announce the impressive total for 2016. While the generosity of farmers is well established in New York, we are only left to wonder how many additional people could have fresh, local food on their dinner plates in the future if the Governor had supported this bill.

New York Farm Bureau urges the Governor to propose a solution in his Executive Budget that will resolve any issues he has with the bill," said Dean Norton, New York Farm Bureau President.

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New York Farm Bureau is the State's largest agricultural lobbying/trade organization. Its members and the public know the organization as "The Voice of New York Agriculture." New York Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving the economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural community.
