To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture.

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU
54th STATE ANNUAL MEETING
DECEMBER 7- 9, 2010
MELVILLE MARRIOTT, MELVILLE, NY

GENERAL INFORMATION

New York Farm Bureau, the voice of NY agriculture, will conduct its 54th State Annual Meeting at the Melville Marriott in Melville, NY, on December 7 – 9, 2010. Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process begins at the county level with problem identification, and culminates at the New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting with a resolution addressing the issue in delegate session. In addition to delegate session, workshops and award contests will also be held. All members and those interested are invited to attend and join in the workshops or watch the policy development process in action.

The meeting will officially begin with the Opening Ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7. Farm tours will be available for members Tuesday morning. Long Island Farm Bureau is busy lining up various venues that will show members the diversity of agriculture on the Island.

REGISTRATION/RESERVATIONS

Reservation forms are enclosed and are also available on the website. The **Hotel Reservation Form** should be completed and returned directly to the Melville Marriott for overnight rooms. A deposit of at least one night's rate needs to be sent with the form (credit card or check payable to the Melville Marriott). For your convenience, reservations can also be made online at http://cwp.marriott.com/nycml/newyorkfarmbureau/.

The reservation deadline is November 12, 2010!!

The hotel is already sold out of their general block of rooms over the dates of our meeting. Once our deadline arrives, any unreserved rooms in the Farm Bureau block will be released for general sale. It is imperative that you make their reservations as soon as possible, but no later than November 12. It is easier to cancel a room, if necessary, than try to secure one. There is no guarantee there'll be rooms after that date. If there are, you will be charged a rate of approximately $249/night, instead of the NYFB rate of $129/night (plus tax). The hotel has no flexibility due to the fact that there are no other rooms available. There are no other hotels nearby to accommodate late reservations, so please can them done early.

The **Meeting and Meal Registration Form** needs to be sent directly to New York Farm Bureau, along with full payment. This form will be used for name badges and meal reservations. Checks should be made payable to New York Farm Bureau. MasterCard, Visa and Discover credit cards will also be accepted.

If you have additional questions regarding State Annual Meeting, please contact Pamela Rafferty at 518-431-5606 or at prafferty@nyfb.org.

MEAL PACKAGES

The full meal package consists of Tuesday dinner, Wednesday lunch, and dinner. Breakfasts on Wednesday and Thursday mornings have been eliminated, and there will be no lunch on Tuesday. The hospitality area will again be open with coffee, muffins, etc. for those who don't need a big breakfast. In addition, the hotel restaurant will be open for breakfast and lunch.

The Wednesday Evening Reception this year is being sponsored by Long Island Farm Bureau, and is going to be a huge highlight of the meeting. LIFB is working with members from Long Island to showcase the diversity of agricultural foods produced on Long Island, and to make this reception a spectacular event.

Special Meals

Following are special meals that have been arranged. General lunches will be set-up for those who are not part of the groups listed below. As indicated above, Tuesday's lunch will be at the attendees' expense and not reimbursed as a delegate expense. With the exception of the breakfast listed below, there are no group breakfasts scheduled. Charges for breakfast will be the responsibility of the attendee.

Wednesday, December 8:

Young Farmer & Rancher Lunch/Business Session – 12:00 noon

Elections for Chair and district representatives, other business, and lunch will be conducted at this time. All young farmers and interested members are encouraged to attend. Only YF&R delegates are permitted to vote.

County Presidents' Luncheon – 12:00 noon

County Presidents, Vice Presidents, and spouses, are invited to the County Presidents' luncheon. Those attending this lunch need to register and submit payment for the lunch as a regular lunch reservation. This is included as part of the full meal package, and those that commute can register and pay for the lunch if they plan on attending that day. President Dean Norton will welcome those attending.

Thursday, December 9:

Membership Breakfast – 7:00 a.m.

This is an invitation only breakfast. Those invited will include county presidents, county membership team leaders, and members who have signed up 5 or more new members during the 2009 membership campaign. Individual membership awards will be presented during this breakfast.

TRANSPORTATION

Information on busing to Long Island for the meeting was previously sent out and reservations and payment are due by October 15, 2010. New York Farm Bureau will provide buses to transport delegates and members from upstate New York to Long Island on Monday, December 6. Buses will tentatively leave from the Buffalo/Rochester, Watertown/Syracuse, and Eastern NY regions. Bus routes pick-up locations, and times are currently being arranged. A bus reservation form is enclosed for those who would like to take the bus and haven't made reservations. Reservations that are fully paid by October 15 will have priority seating.

WORKSHOPS

Becoming an E-Activist
Wednesday, December 8, 1:00 p.m.
Adam Specht, NYFB

This workshop will cover the tools available on NYFB's members only website; our increasing usage of facebook and other social media tools, and how to expand, monitor, and promote the mission of serving and strengthening agriculture on the Internet highway.

An Insider's Guide to D.C. Politics
Wednesday, December 8, 1:00 p.m.
Paul Schlagel, AFBF
David Salmonsen, AFBF

Come listen to top American Farm Bureau Federation staffers Paul Schlegel and Dave Salmonsen provide an insider's view on Washington D.C. politics today. Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Salmonsen will discuss the top policy trends impacting agricultural policy in the Beltway area; and answer member questions on critical topics such as water quality, immigration and labor, and trade issues.

Growing Farm Bureau Membership
Wednesday, December 8, 1:00 p.m.
Fred Perrin, NYFB

This workshop will review NYFB's membership marketing programs with a focus on the future, and especially reaching out to the non-farm public as potential members and supporters. How would the proposed bylaw amendment to create a new 25-dollar "supporting member" category work? What is its potential? How would it fit with the "Local Farms, Local Food" farm market promotion and discount program? A thorough discussion (with Q&A) of the proposed amendment and its ramifications.

NYBF FOUNDATION SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

The Silent Auction will once again be held at the meeting. It will be open on Tuesday from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday, from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Bidding will close at 7:00 p.m., prior to the Wednesday Evening Banquet. Many great items will be up for auction.

The 15-Minute Live Auction will be held at the Wednesday Evening Banquet, following the evening program. As can be surmised from the name, the auction will be limited to a handful of quality items, and will be completed within 15 minutes.

CELL PHONE DONATION

Once again, the State Promotion & Education Committee will be collecting cell phones that are no longer needed. These phones will be recycled and given to shelters that provide assistance to women who are victims of domestic violence. It's a good way to get rid of those phones that you don't use any longer.

AGRICULTURAL TOURS

Suffolk County remains #1 in dollar sales of agricultural products for all counties in New York State. A rare opportunity to see Long Island agriculture will be offered on Tuesday, December 7, as part of the NYFB annual meeting. Tours #1 and #3 will depart the hotel at 7:30 a.m. Tour #2 will depart the hotel at 7:15 a.m. Tours are $25/person and include lunch. Each tour will be limited to 50 people, and seats will be reserved on a first come basis.

Tour #1 - South Fork

The Milk Pail and Amy's Greenhouse - The Halsey Family, John & Evelyn, and their daughters Jennifer and Amy, the 11th & 12th generations to farm their land, will host a tour of their apple orchard and cider mill, and retail greenhouse operation.

Foster Farm - Cliff and Lee Foster will discuss their wholesale potato operation farming in Sagaponack, which is less than 1 mile from the Atlantic Ocean. John vh Halsey from the Peconic Land Trust will be on hand to speak regarding preservation of land on the South Fork, noted for its high land values.

Wolffer Estates and Stables - Tour the 100-acre horse stables and equestrian center, followed by a tour of their 55-acre estate vineyard operation. Lunch will be provided.

Tour # 2 - Southold Town **BUS DEPARTS AT 7:15 A.M.**

North Fork Potato Chip Factory - Marty & Carol Sidor produce North Fork Potato Chips from the potatoes they grow on their farm. A tour of the chip-making process from start to finish.

Van Bourgondien Greenhouse - Bob Van Bourgondien will give a tour of his wholesale greenhouse operation, discussing his poinsettia crop and growing techniques.

Cornell Marine Program - Greg Rivera, Aquaculture Specialist. Learn how oysters, clams, and scallops are grown from seed and harvested on the bay bottom, and the issues affecting the marine industry.

Pindar Vineyards - A tour of this family run winery operation, followed by lunch. Pindar Vineyards is one of the largest winery operations on Long Island.

Tour #3 - Riverhead Town

Crescent Duck Farm - The Corwin Family will give a tour of their integrated duck operation. See how the ducklings are hatched from eggs, grown, and marketed.

Half Hollow Nursery - This 600-acre nursery and container operation grows hundreds of different trees and shrubs. They are also among the first to have installed a functioning windmill that provides a large portion of their electric use.

Van de Wetering Greenhouses - With over 13 acres under glass, Van de Wetering Greenhouses produces plugs and finished products. Their state of the art greenhouse with automated watering and transplanting systems should not be missed.

Martha Clara Vineyards - Founded in 1995 by Robert Entenmann, Marta Clara now has over 100 acres under cultivation. Tour of their facility will be followed by lunch in the tasting room.