



New York Farm Bureau
Renée St. Jacques, Assistant Director
P.518.431.5616
rstjacques@nyfb.org

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 1920 (Senator Ritchie) / Assembly Bill 7290 (Assemblyman Magee)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EDUCATION LAW, IN RELATION TO PROVIDING LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS

Date: 4/24/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your support of the above referenced legislation. If enacted, this legislation would provide a loan forgiveness program for students pursuing a career in agricultural education.

Less than two percent of the nation's population is involved in agricultural production. While technology keeps advancing and the number of people a farmer can feed increases, the average age of the American farmer seems to climb as well. It is imperative that our students receive a secondary education exposing them to agriculture and the possibility of fostering a career within the industry. A typical agricultural education course includes hands-on experience along with learning business skills, science, problem-solving, and applied mathematics. It also will include an opportunity for students to engage in leadership development.

Recently, the National Association of Agricultural Educators has been recruiting prospective students to satisfy the national deficit of agricultural educators. By providing loan forgiveness for agricultural education graduates, students will feel less financial pressure to pursue their chosen career field and give them an incentive to obtain their degrees from New York institutions, eventually staying in New York to teach. This legislation would support agricultural educators so that they can keep ensuring that students learn about agriculture.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau urges your support of this legislation