



New York Farm Bureau • 159 Wolf Road P.O. Box 5330 • Albany, New York 12205 • (518) 436-8495 Fax: (518) 431-5656

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
State Capitol, Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12210

RE: Executive Order 202.6

Dear Governor Cuomo,

On behalf of New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization, I am writing to express our concern regarding Executive Order 202.6. Agriculture in New York State is very diverse with a wide variety of products produced where a delay in planting can impact an entire year's crop or where the care of animals cannot be delayed, therefore it is important that under the Executive order all agriculture operations are exempt.

Currently under Executive Order 202.6 food processing is exempt including those supplying this industry such as farm operations, equipment dealers, feed suppliers, etc. This executive order, however, does not include greenhouse, sod and horse operations as they don't fall under this food processing exemption. These agriculture businesses are time dependent and many are starting to plant and prepare for the upcoming growing season. Any delay at this time will render these businesses without any crop for an entire year. Further, these businesses have extremely high costs and are facing a huge loss if not given an exemption.

We are also greatly concerned with the care of animals. For example, the equine industry, including horse boarding and riding stables, also does not fall under the food production exemption, however, there cannot be any delay in care of these animals without jeopardizing their wellbeing. We understand the safety concerns in mind that led to the Executive Order and our producers will continue to operate at the highest of health and safety standards.

Although these businesses are not related to food processing, they are still important agriculture productions that cannot afford to put their business fully on hold.

New York Farm Bureau thanks you for consideration of this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fisher".

David Fisher
President

Cc: Eric Gertler, Empire State Development Corporation

Patrick Hooker, Deputy Secretary for Food and Agriculture
Richard Ball, Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets