



Farm Bureau Advocacy Leads to State Budget Gains for Agriculture

By Jeff Williams
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New York Farm Bureau saw continued momentum in investment in agricultural programs during state budget negotiations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. In mid-March, the

Senate and Assembly released their one-house budgets in reaction to the Governor's Executive Budget proposal released in January.

These one-house budgets, designed to set the stage for final budget negotiations in late March, increased funding for critical research,

promotion, environmental, and animal health programs above the Governor's initial proposed investment. In addition, the Senate and Assembly proposed budgets included the framework for several new tax incen-

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UNSPLASH

LIFB Webinar Educates Bird Owners on HPAI

By Steve Ammerman
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New York State and USDA officials continue to monitor for additional outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) after a fourth case was identified in Suffolk County towards the end of March. It was found in three New York flocks in February. The first was a small flock on Long Island and subsequently in birds in Ulster and Dutchess Counties in the Hudson Valley. All in all, about 14 states have had detections in 34 separate locations, 22 of them in cases defined as poultry and 12 defined as non-poultry or wild birds.

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PHOTOS BY CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF MONROE COUNTY

Ag Lessons Start Early

East Irondequoit CSD students were not afraid to get their hands dirty and interact with worm castings, red wiggler worms, compost, and food scraps as they led worm stimuli experiments during Agricultural Literacy Week last month.

Left: Dave Long, Monroe County Legislator, read "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table" by Jaqueline Briggs Martin to students as a part of the Ag Literacy Week program. See page 10 for the story.



Ukraine, Russia Conflict Creates Market Volatility

AFBF

Though a distant second for now to the humanitarian crisis brought on by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the market volatility occurring along with it has many worried about how rising commodity prices will affect those outside of the region.

As is well known, Ukraine is a powerhouse producer and exporter

of some key agricultural products. The country is a market mover in the crops and countries in which it trades, so disruptions in the Ukrainian market are having ripple effects across the world. The growing global concern is that the prolonged absence of Ukrainian products on the global market will lead to additional suffering in the form of food price

crises in countries not directly involved in the conflict. We dig in here.

Ukrainian Agriculture

Ukraine is a significant producer and exporter of agricultural products. In 2021, Ukraine exported more than \$27 billion in agricultural products to the world. Ukraine's top

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By Steve Ammerman
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New York Farm Bureau outlined its federal public policy agenda last month as farmers from across the state met virtually with members of New York's congressional delegation to discuss their priority issues. These include agricultural labor reform, modernizing the milk pricing system and supply chain, as well as needed regulatory reforms and support for rural mental health.

Agricultural Labor Reform

Agricultural labor reform is a perennial issue for New York Farm Bureau as it remains incredibly important to farming. We are

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Christina Kohler, NYFB YF&R chair accepts the Harvest for All award from AFBF President Zippy Duvall, left, and Dan Durheim, Associate Vice President Sponsor Relations at Nationwide.

NYFB Members Rank Second in U.S. For Farmer Food Donations

By Steve Ammerman
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NYFB members donated 5.7 million pounds of food to regional food banks across the state in 2021 through the Harvest for All program. The number was announced at the recent annual American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Conference in Louisville, Ky. This was the second highest donation total in the country for 2021, behind Florida. NYFB was awarded \$250 for its effort which will be donated to Feeding New York State.

In addition, NYFB's YF&R program also was recognized for its 180 hours of volunteer service and for collecting \$3,080 in food bank donations last year. Criteria for tracking Harvest for All donations included dollars and pounds of food donated by state and county Farm Bureaus, as well as volunteer hours, reported from the grassroots up as part of the annual campaign.

The Harvest for All donation program is a nationwide annual farm partnership linking Farm Bureau and Feeding America in each state. In New York, NYFB's YF&R Committee and Feeding New York State administer the statewide donation partnership. The food is then distributed among the 10 Feeding America food banks throughout the state.

Christina Kohler, New York Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair, said, "New York's farmers continue to help their communities and people in need all across the state. It has been challenging for everyone last year, but the giving spirit is alive and well on our family farms."

In the past 16 years of the Harvest for All Program, farms in New York have given around 120 million pounds of food to support the work by the regional food banks in our state. That translates into more than 90 million meals.

Dan Egan, Executive Director of Feeding New York State, said, "All of us who serve in New York's food banks are deeply grateful to our farm partners for their donations of healthy, fresh food. The last two years have been exceptionally difficult, but New York's farm community continued its tradition of generous donations. I have seen people standing out in the coldest winter weather waiting eagerly to get this good food for their families. We could not provide this food without you. We at Feeding New York State thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

2023 AFBF FUSION Conference to be held in Jacksonville, Fla.

AFBF is excited to announce that Jacksonville, Fla. will be the location of the 2023 Farm Bureau FUSION Conference. The conference will be held March 3-6, 2023. The conference will bring together members of the Promotion & Education, Women's Leadership and Young Farmers & Ranchers programs. AFBF has secured a hotel room rate of \$175.00 per night plus tax. A video promoting the event can be found at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/afbf-fusion-conf>



Using a manual drill, New York State Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball taps a tree at Brower Road Sugarhouse in Gloversville, NY.

State Ag Commissioner Promotes Maple Industry with First Tree Tapping of the Season

NYSDAM
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball recently joined the Upper Hudson Maple Producers Association for the ceremonial first maple tapping of the season at Brower Road Sugarhouse, a NYS Grown and Certified maple producer, to promote the New York maple industry and encourage New Yorkers to support local maple producers this season. The event also marked the kickoff to New York's Maple Weekends events and activities, which took place March 19-20 and 26-27, along with other special events and promotions.
Commissioner Ball visited Brower Road Sugarhouse in Gloversville, Fulton County for an annual maple tree tapping to highlight New York's maple industry and the maple producers participating in the New York State Grown and Certified program.
More than 75 maple producers participate in NYS Grown and Certified, which verifies New York's agricultural producers and grow-

ers who adhere to food safety and environmental sustainability standards. Find a current list of maple producers who are a part of the NYS Grown and Certified program at <https://certified.ny.gov/wheretobuy>.
Jim Deming, Co-owner of Brower Road Sugarhouse, said: "We are pleased to be able to host this event, after the struggles everyone has faced over the past two years due to COVID-19. Syrup is being made all over New York State."
New York State ranks second in the nation for maple production, and is also home to the largest resource of tappable maple trees within the United States and more than 2,000 maple sugar makers. The Department supports the maple industry through the New York State Budget—which includes funding for promotion and educational programs—as well as through investments in research projects, such as Cornell University's Maple Program's Arnot Teaching Forest, and through its NYS Grown and Certified marketing program.

Scott Pledges \$50 Million to 4-H Youth Programs

According to *Forbes* magazine Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott—whose ex-husband Jeff Bezos founded Amazon—has pledged to donate a record \$50 million to the National 4-H Council, the agriculturally focused youth organization that serves six million children nationwide.
Scott and her husband Dan Jewett's donation is the largest in the organization's 120-year history, National 4-H Council President and CEO Jennifer Sirangelo said in a recent statement.

CORRECTION

In the March edition of *Grassroots*, the story that ran on pages 13 and 15 titled, "Maple – Made for the Love of It," was cut off in the final sentence. The story in full can be found at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-maple>

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New York Farm Bureau Associate Director of Public Affairs Renée St. Jacques, front row left, joins Senator Tom O'Mara, Assemblyman Phil Palmesano and members of their conferences at a capitol press event March 8 in Albany for budget funding for the state's roads, bridges and culverts.

NYFB Stands with Coalition to Increase State Infrastructure Spending

By Steve Ammerman
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New York Farm Bureau is supporting a bi-partisan effort to secure more funding for the state's roads, bridges and culverts.

NYFB joined a large group of lawmakers for a March 8 press conference at the state capitol. The event was headed up by Sen. Tom O'Mara and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to keep hundreds of local highway superintendents and highway department employees from gathering in Albany to lobby state lawmakers like they did every year for most of the past decade.

Nevertheless, the local transportation leaders are still pushing ahead with their annual "Local Roads Are Essential" advocacy campaign sponsored by the New York State Association of County Highway Superintendents (NYSCHSA) and the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, Inc. (NYSAOTSOH).

Among other studies, an October 2017 report from

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli estimated that locally owned bridges alone need at least \$27.4 billion in repairs.

An earlier report from the comptroller called 32% of New York's local bridges deficient and 40% of local roads fair or poor, and getting worse.

An analysis by the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways found that the local highway system outside of New York City faces an annual funding gap of \$1.7 billion.

According to TRIP, a national transportation advocacy group, roads and bridges that are deficient, congested, or lack desirable safety features, cost New York motorists an additional \$28 billion annually — up to \$3,200 per driver in some areas — due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic accidents, and congestion-related delays.

In a joint statement, O'Mara and Palmesano said, "Local roads are essential to New York's future. We have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen this state's commitment. State investment in local trans-

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Chemung County and New York State Ag Legend Bush Passes

By Lindsay Wickham
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We all lost a dear friend to agriculture in the state and the Chemung County community, with the recent passing of Ken "Scott" Bush at the age of 91. A life-long dairy farmer, Ken was the consummate volunteer when it came to anything agriculture and community, serving in many leadership roles at the local and state levels.

For Farm Bureau, Ken served on the county board in pretty much every capacity for well over two decades.

He also represented District 4 on the NYFB State Board of Directors during the mid-1990s. Along with his wife of 71 years, Virginia (Ginny), they were regulars as delegates at numerous NYFB annual meetings, and also went to their fair-share of American Farm Bureau annual meetings. Ken always had a few policy resolutions in his pocket each year to bring forward through the process.



Ken "Scott" Bush

Besides his Farm Bureau roles, Ken was a busy man with many other opportunities. He was a founding member of the East Hill Volunteer Fire Department, served on the county Soil and Water Conservation Board for over 40 years, the Chemung County Holstein Club, the CC Agricultural Society, the Ag and Farmland Protection Board, with several of those being at both the local and state level. He was also an Elmira Town Board member for 22 years and did another eight as a county legislator.

After all the great accomplishments, as noted by his family, if you asked Ken what his greatest accomplishment was, it would be his bond and memories created with his family and friends, for which there were many. With Ginny by his side, they were at all the kids/grandkids/great grandkids events, especially pertaining to their agricultural adventures like 4-H and the county fair.

Every year, I had to give Ken a call to let him know when cherry season was, so he and Ginny could come up and get their fill for canning and freezing purposes, as they were pack-rats in that regard with anything that would go into a can or a freezer. Ken called me on a Friday, less than three days before his death, not to check up on the cherry crop, but to ask if Farm Bureau had any avenue to donate to the crisis/debacle that is Ukraine, especially if it was ag-related. We chatted for probably 15 minutes and I told him I would look into the Ukraine donation thought and get back to him. And, of course, the cherry crop did come up.

Sadly, when Monday rolled around, I never had that chance to get back to him on Ukraine or the cherry crop. The consummate volunteer had one-upped me. Rest in Peace, my friend.

Adult-Use Cannabis Licenses Signed into Law

By Renée St. Jacques
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Legislation signed into law on Feb. 22, 2022, creates the Adult-Use Cannabis Conditional Cultivator licenses. The license would authorize the cultivation of cannabis containing over 0.3% THC for two years. The cultivator license is available to hemp growers who are authorized to grow hemp under the Department of Agriculture and Markets Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program and meet certain other requirements, including:

- Be in good standing with the Department of Agriculture and Markets.
- Have been authorized by Depart-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on the license and how to apply, including an informational webinar, is available at: <https://cannabis.ny.gov/licensing>

Questions on this information can be sent to licensing@ocm.ny.gov or call the Office of Cannabis Management: 1-888-OCM-5151 (1-888-626-5151)

ment of Agriculture and Markets to grow cannabinoid or "CBD hemp" as opposed to growing hemp for grain or fiber.

- Have grown and harvested cannabinoid or "CBD hemp" for two of the past four years (between 2018 -

2021) and be able to provide proof documenting such activities.

- Hold at least a 51% or more ownership in the entity that held the industrial hemp grower authorization from Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Application period for the Adult-Use Conditional Cultivator License ends on June 30, 2022. Applicants must create a profile at New York Business Express (NYBE) and apply on the NYBE website. Applicants must also pay a non-refundable \$2,000 Application and Licensing Fee to complete their application submission. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read program guidance before applying and submitting payment.



Grassroots

April 2022

Grassroots is published monthly by New York Farm Bureau Member Services, Inc. (159 Wolf Road, Suite 300, Albany, NY 12205-0330) as a member service. Subscriptions are available through New York Farm Bureau membership. Non-member subscription rate is \$12. Periodicals postage permit at Albany, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send change of address notices on Form 3579 to Grassroots, 159 Wolf Road, Suite 300, Albany, N.Y. 12205-0330.

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THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Every New Yorker Benefits When Agriculture is Supported in Albany

As you read this, the New York State Budget should be put to bed. Our team has been directly involved in budget negotiations working with our Agriculture Committee leaders in both chambers who are championing our farmers as well as the governor’s office. We are hopeful that in the final passage, the industry could see some of the biggest investment made to New York farming in years. There is increased support for marketing and research, climate smart farming and environmental initiatives, along with tax credits for farms that reinvest in their operations. While this is all significant, there are other big issues that farmers are attempting to manage.

Like everyone else, farms continue to feel the impacts of supply chain disruptions and high inflation. Machine parts I ordered last year have yet to arrive. Fertilizer costs have tripled. Fuel prices are surging along with the cost of animal feed. Dynamics at play around the world are hitting us all in the pocketbook very close to home.

At the same time, labor challenges exist for every business,



David Fisher
NYFB President

"People cannot say they support New York agriculture but advocate against the best interest of local food production."

and farming and food processing are no exceptions. Soon, this could be compounded by an even lower overtime threshold for farmworkers. Bottom line, if we can’t find or afford the labor, food production will be greatly impacted. That begs the question, what happens to those who need assistance?

Feeding America estimates one in nine New Yorkers face hunger. That is significant. Imagine what

goes through a parent’s mind when they struggle to feed their family. New York Farm Bureau just announced last week that our farmers donated 5.7 million pounds of food last year through Feeding New York’s Harvest for All program.

That food was distributed in every corner of the state through the organization’s 10 regional food banks. While that number and the generosity of our state’s farmers are significant, that number is half of what it was just a few years ago.

As the cost to harvest, pack and transport food keeps climbing, the ability of this state to feed itself diminishes, especially when our farms compete against farms in other states and countries with much lower production costs.

But it isn’t just those in need who will be left wanting, so to New Yorkers who desire local product at their grocery stores as well as at farm markets in Union Square, downtown Troy, or in Buffalo. Local businesses that depend on farms to make purchases and buy supplies will lose out.

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THE ZIPLINE

Mi Familia: Preparing for AFBF’s January 2023 Convention

The bond within the Farm Bureau family is powerful. While we are spread from Alaska to Texas and Hawaii to Puerto Rico, we get together once a year to build stronger connections, learn to be better farmers and advocates, and set the road map for the following year. And I consider each and every Farm Bureau member part of “Mi Familia,” which is next year’s convention theme.

While it may seem far away, I would like to invite you to start making your plans for the 2023 American Farm Bureau Convention. We are leaving the mainland and heading to San Juan, Puerto Rico—for the first time—in January. If you haven’t been to Puerto Rico, this is the perfect time to make your visit. And if you’ve been, I have no doubt you are eager to return to the warmth and hospitality of our Farm Bureau family there. In August of last year, I visited Puerto Rico to meet with our members there and to help lay the groundwork for what will be a fantastic AFBF Convention. I attended and spoke at Puerto Rico Farm Bureau’s annual meet-



Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

ing, as well, where their members showed me just how excited they are to welcome the entire family to San Juan.

Puerto Ricans’ passion for farming and Farm Bureau was on full display as they showed me their massive avocados, pineapples, coffee trees and so much more.

While I was visiting, we made our way through the historic Old San Juan neighborhood. The city was founded in 1521, before any U.S. city on the mainland, and its cobblestone roads and 500-year-old buildings were alive with music. We met with Puerto Rico’s gover-

nor and other officials who committed to rolling out the red carpet for the Farm Bureau family. They shared that this would be the first time San Juan’s new Convention Center would be fully occupied by one group, and we toured a brand-new entertainment district just a few feet from the convention center. It even has a zipline! Of the wire and harness type that is, not to be confused with this equally exhilarating Zipline. Okay, maybe that’s a stretch, but I hope you compare for yourself when you join us in January.

But the best part of my trip took place when we got outside the city, and I was able to visit local farms. Puerto Ricans’ passion for farming and Farm Bureau was on full display as they showed me their massive avocados, pineapples, coffee trees and so much more. They shared how their Farm Bureau membership base has been growing quickly because small family farmers were frustrated with the lack of aid making it to small farms

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GUEST OPINIONS

Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

NYFB Members Can Weigh In on CAC’s Draft Scoping Plan During Public Comment Phase

By **Basil Seggos**, DEC Commissioner and **Doreen Harris**, NYSERDA President and CEO.

In 2019, New York State enacted the nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to meet the challenge of our changing climate. The Climate Act requires New York to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all economic sectors to achieve net zero. To advance this, the State’s Climate Action Council has been developing a road map to meet these ambitious targets and chart a clean energy, innovative economy of the future that benefits all New Yorkers.

New York’s aggressive efforts will tackle the sources of harmful emissions and advance a cleaner, greener environment. The Climate Action Council’s draft scoping plan, released for public comment on Dec. 30, 2021, establishes a framework to achieve a carbon-neutral economy with at least an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2050.

Expert analysis of the state’s clean energy transition found that benefits will far exceed costs for New Yorkers by as much as \$120 billion by 2050. At the same time, we anticipate creating more than 211,000 new jobs in construction, manufacturing, professional services,

among other fields by 2030, with continued growth opportunities in the years following.

To do this right and bring everyone to the table to develop a draft scoping plan informed by the interests of all New Yorkers and all economic sectors, the Climate Action Council established several advisory panels and working groups, including the agriculture and forestry advisory panel. With representatives from the American Farmland Trust and New York Farm Bureau, among others, this panel shared a wealth of knowledge and experience from the agricultural and forestry industries to inform the plan. This panel focused on agricultural emissions reductions, specifically nitrous oxide from fields and methane from livestock, and carbon sequestration in forests and on farms.

With feedback from panel members, the draft scoping plan includes emissions reduction strategies like nutrient management and alternative manure management. Other strategies include preserving forests and farmland, improving soil health, advancing reforestation and afforestation, and creating a climate-focused bioeconomy to achieve climate and social justice goals.

Without farming there is no food. Agriculture is a critical part of our

▶ HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are several ways to comment: Join the CAC for one of 10 public hearings, eight being held in-person and two being held virtually. Additional information on the public hearings can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/CAC-NYFB>

Or share your comments online or by mail. Comments can be submitted via the online public comment form, also at climate.ny.gov, via email at scopingplan@nyserda.ny.gov, and via U.S. Mail to Attention: Draft Scoping Plan Comments, NYSERDA, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-6399.

economy, and New York State is committed to supporting the agricultural industry and the local farmers who make it possible. New York State agriculture can be helped by the efforts of the Climate Action Council, as well as with continuing investments and support from the Agricultural Environmental Management Framework and Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program.

Now that the draft scoping plan is out for public comment, we are calling on all New Yorkers to review it and make their voices heard. Only by working together and bringing various groups and stakeholders to the table can we meet the challenge of climate change head-on and ensure all communities and New Yorkers benefit from our transition to a cleaner, greener future.

The release of the Draft Scoping

Plan, available at climate.ny.gov, includes a public comment period that runs through June 10, 2022.

For centuries, farmers in New York State have demonstrated their stewardship for the land and the communities that depend on agriculture. We look forward to continuing to work with farmers to help us address the existential environmental threat climate change presents to us all. Together, we can work to ensure an equitable and just energy transition that continues to strengthen the resiliency and success of our farming economy, builds greater access to clean energy, creates family-sustaining jobs, and benefits every New Yorker.

Seggis and Harris are Co-Chairs of the New York State Climate Action Council.

NYSNLA’s Work Contributes to Health and Wellness of New York State’s Ag Community

More than 60 years ago, the New York State Nursery and Landscape Association was founded to foster the growth, promotion, welfare, and the maintenance of high standards in the business practices and promotion of the industry. NYSNLA brings into closer relationship nurseries, landscape businesses, garden centers, and allied trades across the state—with the goal of providing better methods propagation, growing, selling, design, inspection, transportation, regulations and business management. The association also is proactive in reviewing bills brought before the Legislature—advocating for potential laws that will benefit the industry and fighting against efforts that could curtail or harm the green industry.

NYSNLA offers the Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional (CNLP) certification, an elite group of green industry professionals dedicated to continuing their education and growing as professionals. The CNLP Program advances the professional standards of the nursery, landscape and garden center indus-



Melissa Caggiano,
CNLP
Vice President,
New York State
Nursery and
Landscape
Association

tries.

One of NYSNLA’s top priorities has been the professional development of our members. In the off season, NYSNLA offers a virtual education series where members took part in a wide range of topics, including: new plant introductions, environmental impact on diseases of boxwood and other ornamentals, spotted lantern fly, box tree moth and elm zigzag sawfly, leaders and laterals; a simplified conceptual approach to pruning, biocontrol in landscapes as part of an IPM strategy, deer management: new deer repellent, fencing options, and selection of deer-resistant plants, designs for the future, top 10 OSHA citations, lobby day: meet with New York State government and

regulatory leaders, and social media best practices for the green industry.

Another current NYSNLA priority is the monitoring of the current legislative session. The association opposes A.7429, a bill to prohibit the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids because in some cases, this class of pesticides is the only tool we have to control several devastating pests in the ornamental and natural landscape. We also believe that the DEC, as a scientific, rather than political agency, is the appropriate government body to evaluate safe use of pesticides in our State. NYSNLA also opposes the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Law provisions for agriculture workers.

NYSNLA has helped organize a grassroots advocacy campaign by our members to oppose S.7462A, a bill to ban all gas-powered lawn equipment by requiring them to be zero emissions by 2027. This bill truly threatens the very existence of landscaping companies as the battery technology does not allow for enough charge or strength needed to support teams working long hours

during the high season. The requirement is also economically impossible as companies cannot afford to replace all gas-powered equipment with electric equipment, especially if they cannot sell the gas equipment because it is banned in the state.

The work performed every day by NYSNLA members contributes to the overall health of the Empire State’s agricultural community. Like agriculture, nursery and landscaping work requires specialized knowledge in order to develop, grow, and nurture plants and trees.

When we look at nurseries, we can see how landscaping and agriculture comes together directly. Horticulture farmers produce plants, flowers, shrubs, trees, and other landscaping foliage on a major scale and then sell these products to nurseries.

NYSNLA and its members are proud to be part of the agricultural community in New York State.

For more information about NYSNLA or the CNLP Program, please visit www.nysla.com.



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FISHER

From Page 4

The rural tax base will shrink. I could go on. The USDA is gearing up for the 2022 Agricultural Census where they count the number of farms in the state. It happens every five years. In 2017, we lost around 2,000 farms and 300,000 acres from the period before. I fear this will happen again unless we act together.

I urge New York leaders to make the right decisions when it comes to investing in agriculture. But it is more than just funding programs. We must support the ability for our farms to grow, to reinvest, to stay open for business. With every regulation, comes a cost. With every mandate, comes a closure. People cannot say they support New York agriculture but advocate against the best interest of local food production.

If you want your communities to have New York product, please be a partner with us. Let's capitalize on the opportunities that exist. Let's find a balance that lifts everyone up. New York agriculture and our population both benefit.

Recent Study Shows 29% of American Jobs Tied to Food and Agriculture

AFBF

In March, 30 food and agriculture groups released the sixth annual Feeding the Economy report, a historic farm-to-fork economic analysis revealing how these sectors influence the local and broader United States economies. Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's study highlights how the industries remained resilient to provide Americans with jobs, economic opportunity and safe food.

The report's findings show that 7% of the nation's economy and 29% of American jobs are linked to the food and agriculture sectors, either directly or indirectly.

Amidst the global supply chain and inflation crises, these sectors also exported \$182.91 billion worth of goods, helping the U.S. maintain its position as a leading player in global agriculture. In 2021 these sectors contributed a total of \$3.01 trillion to the U.S. economy.

In addition to providing insights on nationwide impact, the report breaks

down the sectors' impact by state and congressional districts.

Key findings include:

- Total Jobs: 43,464,211
- Total Wages:\$2.30 trillion
- Total Taxes: \$718.15 billion
- Exports: \$182.91 billion
- Total Food and Industry Economic Impact: \$7.43 trillion

To measure the total economic impact of the sectors, the analysis also includes the direct and indirect economic activity surrounding these industries, capturing both upstream and downstream activity. For example, when a farm equipment retailer hires new employees because farmers are buying more tractors, experts consider the new salaries an indirect impact. Similarly, when a retail associate spends her paycheck, an induced economic impact occurs. Together, these have a multiplier effect on the already formidable direct impact of food and agriculture.

ZIPLINE

From Page 4

after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017. But they also shared how the outpouring of support from Farm Bureau members across the country lifted their spirits in a challenging time.

That's what the Farm Bureau Family does. We step up when others are in need. And we stand up and speak with one voice on the issues affecting agriculture and our communities. That's the Farm Bureau way and why I'm proud to lead this great

organization.

So, when we were deciding on the theme for next year's Convention, it was an easy decision to make it "Mi Familia." It reminds us of why we do what we do. We farm to feed our families and families across the country and around the world. Many of us farm and ranch with our family members, and we want the farm to continue on with our children and grandchildren. And it doesn't matter what you farm, how many acres you have, or where you come from, if you want to be part of the Farm Bureau family, we welcome you with open arms and many opportunities to grow as advocates and leaders.



It's up to us to keep the next generation of farmers SAFE

- Always use safety equipment, such as helmets, goggles and gloves, where necessary.
- Teach children about both the positive and dangerous aspects of livestock and farm animals.

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Dairy Leader Calls For New Export Opportunities to Support Rural Economy

National Milk Producers Federation

An Illinois dairy processor recently highlighted the importance of exports to dairy manufacturing jobs in a virtual town hall organized by Farmers for Free Trade (FFT). Chris Hoeger, vice president of procurement for Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc., participated in a panel with Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD), farmers and economists to discuss the critical role U.S. agricultural exports have in supporting the rural economy.

A participant in the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and U.S. Dairy Export Council's (USDEC) Dairy Trade Envoys program, Hoeger joined with the panel in calling on the U.S. government to pursue comprehensive trade deals. He noted that, in the absence of negotiations on tariff reductions, American dairy exporters face an increasingly unbalanced playing field as the European Union and New Zealand forge ahead with new agreements.

"We appreciate the Administration's important work in enforcing existing trade deals, including USMCA, but without new access opportunities, U.S. dairy exports will continue to face a disadvantage, and American jobs will suffer as a result," Hoeger shared in his remarks. "Workers in the dairy industry want the Biden trade policy strategy to include following through with agreements already under negotiation, such as with the United Kingdom, a big dairy importing market, as well as going after new deals."

NMPF and USDEC are members of FFT. Both play an active role in helping the organization carry out its mission of informing the public about the benefits of free trade and supporting the pursuit of beneficial trade agreements that expand export opportunities for American farmers and workers throughout the export supply chain.

"As reiterated throughout today's event, American agricultural exports have wide-ranging benefits for workers at the farm, at the processing plant, in the supply chain and beyond."



TIM BIGHAM/NYFB STAFF

Lobby Day Roundtable

Farm Bureau leaders from Allegany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua County met with Sen. George Borrello and Assemblyman Andy Goodell in their offices in Jamestown. Picture counter clockwise are Nora Carnes (wearing hat), Jim Joy, Nathan Blesy, Barb Blesy, Dick Kimball, Sen. Borrello, Assemblyman Goodell, staffer Lisa Vanstrom, Lavern Warriner.

Entrepreneurs Wanted: Apply by April 29 for Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge

AFBF

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, is seeking entrepreneurs to apply online for the 2023 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. Now in its ninth year, this national business competition showcases U.S. startup companies developing innovative solutions to challenges faced by America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Farm Bureau is offering \$165,000 in startup funds throughout the course of the competition, which will culminate in the top 10 semi-finalists competing in a live pitch competition in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives at the AFBF Convention in January 2023 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Last year, Propagate Ventures, a Tompkins County-based operation was named a semi-finalist in the competition.

"Innovation is at the heart of everything farmers and ranchers do," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "The Ag Innovation Challenge is an outstanding avenue for identifying and

supporting startup businesses striving to solve the problems facing rural America. I look forward to seeing the innovative, resourceful and creative solutions that Challenge applicants submit."

Applications remain open through April 29, and the 10 semi-finalist teams will be announced Sept. 13. Each of the semi-finalist teams will be awarded \$10,000 and a chance to compete to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional \$5,000 each. The final four teams will compete to win:

Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Winner, for a total of \$50,000

Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Runner-up, for a total of \$20,000

People's Choice Team selected by public vote, for an additional \$5,000 (all 10 semi-finalist teams compete for this honor)

Prior to the live pitch competition, the top 10 semi-finalist teams will participate in pitch training and mentorship from Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business faculty, and network with representatives from the

Agriculture Department's Rural Business Investment Companies.

Recent winners of the Ag Innovation Challenge include Grain Weevil Corporation, a grain bin safety and management robot that improves farmer well-being by controlling risks and costs (2022 Ag Innovation Challenge Winner) and Harvust, a software platform that helps farmers successfully hire, train and communicate with employees (2021 Ag Innovation Challenge Winner). Other examples of successful Ag Innovation Challenge participants, as well as detailed eligibility guidelines and the competition time line can be found at fb.org/challenge.

Entrepreneurs must be members of a county or parish Farm Bureau within their state of residence to qualify as top 10 semi-finalists. Applicants who are not Farm Bureau members can visit <https://www.fb.org/about/join> to learn about becoming a member.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 29, 2022.

NYSAC Passes Resolution Calling for Current Overtime Threshold to Remain

Grow NY Farms

The Grow NY Farms Coalition recently announced that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) is in support of maintaining the current overtime threshold at 60 hours for family farms across the Empire State.

During their 2022 Legislative Conference in Albany, which took place March 14-16, NYSAC passed a resolution affirming the group's support of the current 60-hour overtime threshold.

"New York State's county leaders have made their voices heard, and we hope that Gov. Kathy Hochul is listening. We're grateful for NYSAC's support and partnership as we continue to advocate for the viability of New York's farms and protection of the

state's local food supply. We cannot ignore the more than 70% of participants who asked to maintain the threshold during Farm Laborers Wage Board hearings. University researchers, industry experts, local and state officials, in addition to farmers and farmworkers, have asked to keep the threshold at 60. If we want to protect these family businesses for the next generation of farmers and farmworkers, the threshold must remain at 60 hours," NYFB Vice President Eric Ooms said. Ooms is a partner at A. Ooms & Sons Dairy Farm in Columbia County.

"Our employees want to work. They understand the need to plant and harvest when Mother Nature allows, and they have a passion for caring for the land, each other, and the fresh produce that result from

all our preparation, efforts, and teamwork. Unfortunately, farms are already feeling the unintended consequences of the 60-hour threshold, as employees choose to work for our competitors in order to get the hours they're looking for. At the same time, our margins are increasingly razor thin and we're unable to donate as much food as we used to. If we have any chance at retaining our skilled workforce and continuing to provide to our neighbors and families across the state, Gov. Hochul must keep the overtime threshold at 60," said Brian Reeves, New York State Vegetable Growers Association President, and Partner at Reeves Farm in Onondaga County.

The resolution is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/NYSAC-resolution>.

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New CDL Requirements Consist of Both Knowledge and Behind-the-Wheel Training

By Ashley Oeser
aoeser@nyfb.org

On Feb. 7, 2022, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) created the final step of fulfilling the entry-level driver training (“ELDT”) standards for commercial driver’s licenses (“CDLs”) and endorsements. This requirement creates a registry that tracks both Training Providers that have met the federal training requirements, and all entry-level driver applicants who have successfully completed the training. This training consists of both knowledge training, and behind the wheel training.

Who is Required to Take the Entry-Level Driver Training?

Individuals who: 1.) Are seeking a Class A or B CDL for the first time, 2.) Upgrading to a Class A or B CDL or, 3.) Obtaining a passenger (P), school bus (S) or a hazardous material (H) endorsement for the first time. If your license or license designation is not in listed here, you are not subjected to the ELDT regulations. Thus, ELDT regulations are not applicable to F or G endorsements.

Is the ELDT Retroactive?

No. This training requirement is not retroactive as the requirements don't apply to an individual holding a valid CDL, or H, P, or S endorsement issued prior to Feb. 7, 2022. Additionally, if you received a commercial learner's permit ("CLP") prior to Feb. 7, 2022, you are exempt from the ELDT requirements, so long as you obtain a CDL before the expiration date of the CLP or renewed CLP.

Where Can I Find a Training Provider?

Entry-level driver applicants are to obtain training from a provider listed on the Training Provider Registry (“TPR”), which is managed by the FMCSA. To find an approved Trainer, please visit

AFBF Urges President Biden to Increase Domestic Energy Production

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall recently sent a letter to President Joe Biden asking him to take the necessary steps to address high energy costs impacting all Americans. Over the past 15 months, oil prices have increased by 130% to more than \$120 per barrel.

President Duvall wrote, "As Russia's harmful actions in Ukraine continue and further sanctions are imposed against Russia, oil prices will likely continue to rise, creating even higher consumer costs and threatening U.S.

Compliance Corner

By Lisa Ovitt
lovitt@nyfb.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about becoming an eligible Training Provider, please visit [**https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-cdl1**](https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-cdl1)

and/or

<https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-cdl2>

For more information on this topic,
please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-cdl3>

this website: <https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/>.

How do I Become an Eligible Training Provider Listed on the TPR?

You must apply to, and be approved by, the FMCSA. Once approved, Training Providers are to have curricula for the training course. The Training Providers are also subjected to certain instructor qualifications, facilities, equipment, and state licensing. FMC-SA states that training providers can include, but are not limited to, training schools, educational institutions, rural electric cooperatives, motor carriers, state/local governments, school districts, joint labor management programs, owner-operators, and individuals.

FMCSA notes that eligible providers may provide training either on a “for-hire” or “not-for-hire” basis. For example, this may include motor carriers who provide ELDT at no cost to current or prospective employees, independent training schools charging tuition, and individuals who train family or friends.

The information contained in this article is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be, nor should it be considered, a substitute for legal advice rendered by a competent attorney. If you have any questions about the application of the issues raised in this article to your particular situation, seek the advice of a competent attorney.



Young Farmers & Ranchers

By Patti Dugan
pdugan@nyfb.org



Zippy Duvall, Jon Iverson, Morgan Norris, NYFB member Paul Molesky and Alisha Schwertner (current AFBF YF&R Chair).

AFBF YF&R 2022 CONFERENCE

The Ag Triple Crown: Food, Fiber, Fuel

By Christina Hudson Kohler
NYFB Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee Chair

American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers hosted 800 collegiate, young farmers, ranchers and agriculture professionals in Louisville, Ky. for the 2022 Leadership Conference. After two years of attending virtual conferences and AFBF YF&R Connect calls over Zoom it was invigorating to be back in person with our peers around the country. Although the group representing New York was not as large as the group that would have attended in 2020, the participants of the 2022 conference enjoyed networking, breakout sessions and workshops over the course of the three-day conference.

Former AFBF YF&R Chair, Paul Molesky, from New York, received a token of appreciation for his two years of service. Brennan Daley, from SUNY Morrisville, received a \$100 scholarship for his participation in the AFBF YF&R Collegiate Discussion Meet. New York Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers were recognized for the Harvest for All Foods Runner-Up for pounds of food donated. Christina

Hudson Kohler participated in the State YF&R Chair training with Rachel Kagay, a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach.

During Saturday's opening session, Delatorro McNeall, II addressed the audience in a high energy, engaging, motivational speech on Peak Performance. He is the author of "Shift Into a Higher Gear: Better Your Best and Live Life to the Fullest".

Saturday evening Jordan Rowe, country music artist, performed at the Kentucky Derby Museum and walking tours of the history of Churchill Downs were available. Sunday's general session speaker, Braxten Nielson, spoke about overcoming setbacks and challenges through his personal experience learning how to walk again after a rodeo accident.

During the closing general session, AFBF President, Zippy Duval shared his heart with the attendees and took time to answer questions from the audience. The conference ended with a variety of farm tours around the Louisville area. Next year the AFBF FUSION Conference will be held in Jacksonville, Fla. The conference will be held March 3-6, 2023 with Promotion & Education, Young Farmers & Ranchers, and Women's Leadership.

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER CHRONICLE

Cornell Chapter

by Alyssa Roorda,
Chapter Secretary

On Feb. 22, 2022 Cornell's Collegiate NY Farm Bureau Chapter welcomed back their members for the spring semester! Members enjoyed pizza, introduced themselves to each other, and discussed various ways they want to engage this semester. We hope to bring in guest speakers in various sectors of agriculture, tour local ag businesses, and engage in lobbying at the state level. Our members come from predominantly dairy backgrounds, so we are excited to step beyond that industry and learn more about others.

The last weekend in March, members will be traveling to a pancake breakfast and various sap houses in celebration of New York maple weekend. Many operations are having open houses, where our group will be able to tour their business, sample and purchase products, and chat with the businesses about their production. This will be a great time for our members to bond with each other while immersing themselves in a different industry.

In the upcoming weeks, our club plans to purchase apparel to better represent Farm Bureau on our campus and when attending various events. We also plan to bring in guest speakers to engage with professionals in the industry. We are looking forward to a great rest of the semester.

Cobleskill Chapter

by Harrison VanDeWalle,
Chapter President

The SUNY Cobleskill chapter is working to increase student involvement and raise awareness for our organization across campus. They are planning a campus wide scavenger hunt later this spring and hope to draw students from all majors.

Morrisville Chapter

by Brennan Dailey,
Chapter President

We are keeping very busy here at SUNY Morrisville. The Collegiate FFA/FB Chapter is working with our Dairy Club and our National Agriculture Marketing Association (NAMA) chapter to plan our fun on the farm day. At this event Morrisville invites local elementary schools to the dairy on campus to show what happens on a farm. There is going to be a huge amount of activities for kids to participate in.



Emily Brennan (District 4), Christina Hudson Kohler, Zippy Duvall, Paul Molesky, Brennan Daley (SUNY Morrisville Collegiate NYFB Chapter)



Promotion & Education

By Patti Dugan
pdugan@nyfb.org

Agriculture Literacy Week Allows Students Hands-On Farming Experience

Volunteers Return to Read to Students In Person Across the State to Highlight Diversity in New York Agriculture Industry

By Katie Carpenter
Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NYAIRC) celebrated Agricultural Literacy Week the third week of March with students, teachers, and volunteers across the state as a way to promote agricultural literacy and highlight the diversity of New York agricultural industries.

For the past 18 years, volunteers throughout the state have helped to celebrate New York agriculture by reading a book with an agricultural theme to elementary school students.

This year’s featured book “Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table” written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin with art by Eric Shabazz Larkin, focuses on farmer Will Allen who is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he’s as tall as his truck, and can hold a cabbage, or a basketball, in one hand.

Students will continue learning after the book is read with one of two experiences that include exploring a vermicomposting worm bin or setting up an experiment to observe how worm castings impact plant growth. These activities model the same observations and experiments Farmer Will Allen led to amend his soil with red wigglers on his city plot. The hands-on lessons helps immerse students in the story and create strong curricular connections in science and literacy. The book will be donated to the school library for students and teachers to reference throughout the school year.

New York Agriculture in the Classroom is a partnership of Cornell University, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Education Department, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and New York Farm Bureau. New York Agriculture in the Classroom fosters an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of our food and fiber system.

More information about Agricultural Literacy Week can be found by visiting the New York Agriculture in the Classroom website at www.ag-classroom.org/ny.



CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF MONROE COUNTY

Above: New composting worm enthusiasts were created at Lakeshore Elementary School in the Greece CSD. Students dug in to understand how worms can play a key role in soil health and how their castings provide an important nutrient-dense product to feed plants.



Left: CCE of Monroe County and Monroe County Farm Bureau kicked off Agricultural Literacy Week with vermicomposting exploration at The Children’s School of Rochester. The smiling faces tell the story of how they liked their red wiggler worm exploration.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF MONROE COUNTY

Promotion & Education

Tomato Planting: A Labor of Love, but Worth it

By Laurie McBride
NYFB District 11 Representative Promotion & Education State Committee

Tomatoes, love them or hate them. If you are a 'mater hater you probably know a tomato enthusiast. There is something so remarkable about the perfect fresh tomato. It could be their juiciness, that slightly acidic yet sweet flavor or most notably their texture that you cannot find in off season tomatoes. For those sincere fans of fresh tomatoes, it's very long between seasons.

Traditionally field tomato seedlings are started sometime in April and harvest can be expected in July or August. Nonetheless for that tomato enthusiast waiting until August (especially after shoveling out from a yet another March or dare say April snow storm) is not soon enough. Getting a jump on producing quality tomatoes ready to harvest in May is not easy. To put it bluntly tomatoes don't do well in the cold and dark of March so the growing conditions will need to be manipulated. They will have to be grown in some type of protected culture such as a high tunnel, poly house or a glass

greenhouse.

Variety selection is challenging because you are limited on what will work best with different growing conditions. Your goal is to optimize your production in a limited amount of square footage. You need to find an indeterminate tomato variety. These will keep growing and producing as long as conditions are favorable.

Growing inside any structure reduces the airflow so you want to find a variety that has some built in disease resistance. Another thing to take note of is germination/growth conditions. You're in the early days of the year, will your plants thrive with less than 13 hours of daylight?

Varieties selected, now onto the soil. There are many options on the market to grow your tomatoes in. Some including containers, grow bags, rock-wool, clay pebbles or the most traditional, planting directly in the soil. The main worry with any of these options is that they are free of disease, insects and weed seeds. Proper soil pH is vital for your plants to thrive. If the pH is in the optimal range, it ensures that the plants have the ability to take up the



SPECIAL/LAURIE MCBRIDE

Tomatoes planted early in the season will have to be grown in some type of protected culture such as a high tunnel, poly house or a glass greenhouse.

nutrients in the soil.

Water is the next necessity. You'll need a consistent water supply for tomatoes especially when they start producing fruit, remember you want them juicy! Fertilizer is a must for consistent and uniform production. Calcium to start for good plant establishment. Nitrogen for proper plant growth. Potassium is vital for blossoms and consistent fruit production. The only way to ensure

you are feeding the plants the proper fertilizers is by regular tissue analysis. Establishing a regular check-up allows nutrient deficiencies to be corrected before production is lost.

Tomato production is a labor of love and when done correctly the product is amazing and worth every step. Fingers crossed that spring comes early and we can all start planting those matters sooner than later.

National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference to be Held in Saratoga Springs

NYAITC

New York Agriculture in the Classroom (NYAITC) is the proud host state of the 2022 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. Taking place in Saratoga Springs from June 28-July 1, 2022, New York is poised to host up to 650 teachers, state leaders, and volunteers in agricultural literacy will attend the nation's premier professional development conference for teaching through a lens of food and agriculture.

NYAITC is proud to be able to showcase the unique and diverse agriculture and food production systems in New York through integrated traveling workshops to start the conference.


From multi-generation dairy operations, maple syrup production, fiber mills, honeybee suppliers, apple production, the equine industry, and more, there is no shortage of uniquely New York agriculture to tour in Washington and Saratoga Counties. Exposing educators from across the country to the state's landscape and diversity of production is a proud moment for NYAITC.


Hands-on workshops, incredible keynote speakers, and educator networking will be featured during the conference experience, and it is important

to NYAITC that a strong presence of New York teachers have access to this high-quality professional development experience in their backyard. 60 full conference scholarships will be awarded to pre-K to 12th grade teachers with a desire to include agriculture in their classroom to create authentic learning experiences for their students and connect them to the agriculture in their community.



A scholarship is available that will include a full conference registration and hotel accommodations with a value of over \$900. Visit our website to view the full eligibility and encourage teachers in your community to apply by April 15, 2022.

Registration is now open for the conference, and NYAITC encourages any educator and volunteer in agricultural literacy to participate in this one-of-a-kind conference. Learn more by visiting agclassroom.org/ny or reaching out to nyaitc@cornell.edu.

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NYS BREWERS ASSOCIATION



NYS BREWERS ASSOCIATION

Cheers: NYFB Staff, Members Awarded at NYS Brewers Conference

Above: Paul Leone, Executive Director, NYS Brewers Association; Chris Ericson, Immediate Past President, NYS Brewers Association; Kevin King, NYS Deputy Secretary of Food and Agriculture; Derric Slocum and Kristin Lunkenheimer Slocum, Cayuga County Farm Bureau members. The Slocums, owners of Lunkenheimer Craft Brewing, were one of two brewery owners who won the Governor’s Craft Beer Cup for the best beer in the state at the New York State Brewers Conference last month.

Left: NYFB County Farm Bureau Relations Manager Mark James was recognized last month at the New York State Brewers Conference. He received the "Support of the Industry" Award for his dedicated work in promoting and assisting in the development of New York’s Craft Brewery Industry.



NYFB’s LOCAL FARM MARKET GUIDE

If you are a NYFB member who direct markets your products, this is a member benefit that can make it easier for potential customers to find you.

New York Farm Bureau member farm stands, farm markets, brewery, wineries & distilleries are at www.nyfb.org

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Gov. Hochul Announces Applications Available for Fast-Track Permits for Craft Beverage Manufacturers

NYSDAM

Gov. Kathy Hochul recently announced that the State Liquor Authority is now accepting applications for new permits to allow craft beverage manufacturing businesses the ability to manufacture and sell alcoholic beverages while their liquor license is pending. These new permits can generally be processed and approved in less than 30 days, compared to applications for new licenses that currently take an average of six months, expediting the time it takes to open a new craft beverage manufacturing businesses throughout the state.

"New York's craft beverage industry is not only a source of local pride, but also creates jobs and drives tourism in every corner of the state," Governor Hochul said. "These fast-tracked permits will allow new businesses to hit the ground running by opening quickly and making immediate contributions to their local economies. This is another step in furthering our administration's efforts to cut red tape, ease regulations, and make commonsense reforms to help these businesses grow and thrive."

State Senator Michelle Hinchey said, "The launch of New York's fast-tracked temporary permits is a major turning point for craft beverage producers across our state, and I'm proud to have authored the legislation to help these small businesses bring their exceptional products from farm to glass sooner. As a strong tourism driver and

local job creator, New York's burgeoning craft beverage industry represents an exciting growth sector for upstate economies, and it's one that I've been thrilled to elevate as Senate Agriculture Chair. I thank Governor Hochul for her avid support of temporary permits and I look forward to our continued work to expand New York's competitive edge in the craft beverage industry."

Assemblymember Donna Lupardo said, "If a craft beverage business has a location and is ready to operate, they should be able to while awaiting their final license. Temporary permits will make it easier for these businesses to get goods to market sooner and generate income."

Legislation signed by Gov. Hochul on Dec. 21, 2021, created new temporary permits for breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries and meaderies, allowing them to open while awaiting the final approval, preventing accrued costs in rent and maintenance after the location and equipment have been acquired. There are currently eighty-one permit applications pending for craft manufacturers statewide.

These permits allow businesses to manufacture and sell alcoholic beverages for a period of six months, or until the full application is approved, for a fee of just \$125. The new permits may be extended for a three-month period for an additional \$50 fee if necessary. The application for craft manufacturers to apply for the new temporary operating permits are available at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/nys-craft-bev>

Commodity Report: Horticulture



The Rak family, from left, Abram, Adam, Dennis and Sue at their vineyard in Fredonia, NY (Chautauqua County).

In Demand Virus-Free Certification Creates a Business Buzz at Double A Vineyards

By Tim Bigham
tbigham@nyfb.org

Dennis Rak of Double A Vineyards, Inc. in Fredonia has quite a few irons in the fire. As the name implies, the business consists of grape acreage. But the business is much more than that. Dennis prides himself on producing vines that are certified virus free. This includes grape vines but also berry and hop plants. Dennis owns the business with his wife Sue and sons, Adam and Abram. Double A Vineyards, a name reflecting his son's first initials, started in 1990 with a grape vineyard and nursery stock.

That hasn't changed much. What has changed is the quantity and proportion of each – from 90% vineyard and 10% nursery stock when the business began to 90% nursery stock and 10% vineyard today. Double A initially sold 100,000 vines each year and now sells about 3 million to 3.5 million vines annually.

Their vine certification program is relatively new. Dennis describes it this way, "A big shift in our business began in 2015, working with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets on our (virus-free) certification program".

The process of licensing, permitting and development of processes and procedures, to sell stock certified as virus free started about seven or eight years prior to this. Vine testing is an important step in the process. New York State tests 25% of this business's propagation blocks each year. A benefit of the virus-free certification is the additional business it can create. "Our hope is this will open up the Canadian export market to us," Dennis explained.

About 25% of vine and other nursery stock sales from the farm is retailed through big box stores. The balance



Grafted nursery cuttings

of the product is marketed directly to growers and private customers who purchase as few as a couple of vines at a time, mostly through internet sales. Dennis has found it difficult to keep up with the demand in product though he is managing to do so.

Managing growth is especially challenging considering that both production and sales must be

2022 PLANTING PREVIEW

Spring Starts with Many Challenges, Uncertainties for NY Growers

By Brooks Brown
bbrown@nyfb.org

The 2022 planting season is off to a challenging start for growers in New York State and around the country as fertilizer prices have skyrocketed and supply chain issues are causing major shipment delays of various gardening supplies across many sectors of the industry.

Bill Zalakar, President of Long Island Farm Bureau, says business is off to a tough start at Kurt Weiss Greenhouse where he's worked for 27 years. Kurt Weiss' main crops are holiday flowering crops such as poinsettias, Easter lilies, mums, hydrangeas and small spring plants used for landscaping.

"At the rate of inflation, I'm worried about people's spending capabilities and what they're going to be able to spend. Along with that you have the complications of the supply chain issues which, for us, have been horrendous. We cater to a lot of the large distributors like Home Depot, Costco, Wal-Mart and the big food chain stores. With that a lot of those plans and contracts were drummed up a year ago and even though we placed the orders for supplies from American suppliers as well as suppliers out of the country, it's been a disaster trying to get the supplies on time," said Zalakar.

As greenhouse manager, Zalakar says there are plastics used for his plants such as containers and films to cover the greenhouse that have been on back order for months and that he's currently ordering plastics to be received two years from now. The biggest problem with this delay is that large distributors want to put pricing and SKU/UPC numbers on containers, but with prices changing so quickly, that creates a major problem as price change from year to year making last year's containers unusable for this year.

American Farm Bureau Federation Chief Economist Dr. Roger Cryan says supply chain problems abound in America and around the world. He says the issues began when COVID-19 shut down dining and entertainment and changed consumer spending habits.

"All our demand shifted to stuff and that demand for a lot of stuff clogged up ocean shipping, which we're still dealing with. That's created problems at the ports, shortages of containers, and our ag exporters have had a hard time moving

Empire Medicinals Expands, adds New Lab at Cornell AgriTech

Empire Medicinals

Empire Medicinals, a mushroom innovation company specializing in gourmet varieties and groundbreaking additive ingredients, has become the first business to take lab space at the NYS Center for Excellence in Food and Agriculture (COE) at Cornell AgriTech.

The Rochester-based food company, is becoming known as a leader in the mushroom industry. Under its culinary mushroom brand Leep Foods, the company grows regenerative organic specialty mushrooms, including Blue Oyster, Lion’s Mane, and Shiitake, and distributes them through leading grocers across the US Northeast..

Empire Medicinals is now pursuing the commercial-scale production of mushroom mycelium, the filamentous root-like structures that precede the formation of a mushroom, as an abundant source of nutritious compounds to create dynamic new food products, healthy food additives, and in-demand dietary food supplements and nutraceuticals. The expanded laboratory space at the COE will allow Em-



Chris Carter, Empire Medicinals' Executive Vice President and board member

pire Medicinals to test a variety of processes in the cultivation of the beneficial compounds of mycelia, a product achieving growing attention as a nutritious food additive and its potential therapeutic properties as a food supplement. Both are multi-billion dollar industries.

The most unique facet of the Empire Medicinals’ research is not solely growing and harvesting mycelia, but its research seeks to improve the cultivation process. The study will partner with New York’s dairy industry to improve the mycelium cultivation process.

Empire Medicinals will utilize by-products from milk, yogurt, and other dairy food processing. This collaboration will have additional environmental benefits, reduce farmers’ and food manufacturers’ carbon footprints and enhance the sustainability of agricultural processes by reducing greenhouse gasses.



Nursery rows of one year old stock at Double A Vineyards.

DOUBLE A

From Page 13

input sourcing, transportation and worker availability all seem to be in a perpetual state of flux. The purchase of specialty plastics alone is indicative of the difficulty of cost management. The cost of the plastics that Double A uses increased 25% over last year. The shipping for that plastic increased 270% at the same time. Much of the specialized equipment that Double A uses comes from Europe. While Dennis used to order parts when he worked on equipment over the winter, supply chain concerns have changed that. He now says, “We order parts before we put equipment away so we’ll be sure we have them in time”.

As it does for most of agriculture, labor presents challenges. Dennis and Sue started with one or two employees as they took on part-time jobs to float the farm during the early years. They are now managing about 50 employees. This is in spite of the significant amount of

DOUBLE A VINEYARDS

10317 Christy Rd,
Fredonia, NY 14063

716-672-8493
<https://doubleavineyards.com>

mechanization that the business has experienced. Dennis feels that the business has gone as far in this area as it is likely to go.

“I’ve played my mechanization card as much as I could so far”, he said.

In recent years, the use of H-2A workers has been necessary as business has grown. Double A started with the H-2A program just four years ago and now forty percent of his workforce consists of H-2A employees.

Dennis expects continued growth in the future – both in markets and in production. The business has a transfer plan so that Adam and Abram may one day take the reins from their parents. The next time you see a grape vine cutting in your local department store, check to see if it comes from Double A.

Partnership bears fruit with release of two new grape varieties

Cornell Chronicle

Two newly released grape varieties, developed collaboratively between Cornell AgriTech and Sun World International, a global fruit genetics and licensing company, offer new flavors for consumers and better growing characteristics for farmers.

Sugrafiftytwo, an ultra-early ripening green seedless grape variety with a sweet Muscat flavor and firm crisp texture, and Sugrasixty, a midseason ripening red variety with large berries and a tropical aroma with overtones of mango, are the fruit of a 13-year collaboration between Cornell AgriTech and Sun World.

Through the partnership, the royal-

ties from the commercialization of the varieties developed by both organizations will continue to flow back to and support the Cornell Grape Breeding and Genetics Program, which is led by Bruce Reisch, professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Sugrasixty is a midseason ripening red variety with large berries and a tropical aroma with overtones of mango.

Reisch credits Cornell’s partnership with Sun World for making the development of these new varieties possible.

Sugrafiftytwo and Sugrasixty are the first grape varieties resulting from the partnership, which began in 2009.



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USDA Announces Plans to Support Innovative American-Made Fertilizer

Seeks Public Input to Identify Competition Challenges in Seed, Fertilizer, Other Agricultural Inputs and Retail Markets

USDA

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing it will support additional fertilizer production for American farmers to address rising costs, including the impact of Putin’s price hike on farmers, and spur competition. USDA will make available \$250 million through a new grant program this summer to support independent, innovative and sustainable American fertilizer production to supply American farmers. Additionally, to address growing competition concerns in the agricultural supply chain, USDA will launch a public inquiry seeking information regarding seeds and agricultural inputs, fertilizer, and retail markets.

“Recent supply chain disruptions from the global pandemic to Putin’s unprovoked war against Ukraine have shown just how important it is to invest in this crucial link in the agricultural supply chain here at home,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, “The planned investment is one example of many Biden-Harris Administration initiatives to bring production and jobs back to the United States, promote competition, and support American goods and services. As the President said [at the State of the Union], we are working to rebuild the economy towards resilience, security, and sustainability, and this support to provide domestic, sustainable and independent choices for fer-

tilizer supplies is part of that effort. In addition to the jobs, lower costs and more reliable supply, increased investment in the domestic fertilizer industry will help address climate change by reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation, while also fostering more sustainable production methods and more precise application.”

Fertilizer prices have more than doubled since last year due to many factors including Putin’s price hike, a limited supply of the relevant minerals and high energy costs, high global demand and agricultural commodity prices, reliance on fertilizer imports, and lack of competition in the fertilizer industry.

The United States is a major importer and dependent on foreign fertilizer and is the second or third top importer for each of the three major components of fertilizer. The top producers of the major components of fertilizer include China, Russia, Canada and Morocco, with Belarus also providing a significant share of potash.

USDA will use funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) set aside in September for market disruptions to develop a grant program that provides ‘gap’ financing to bring new, independent domestic production capacity on-line—similar to the recently announced meat and poultry grants that are designed to promote competition and resilience in that sector.

► DETAILS

The new program will support fertilizer production that is:

- **Independent** – outside the dominant fertilizer suppliers, increasing competition in a concentrated market;
- **Made in America** – produced in the United States by domestic companies, creating good-paying jobs at home and reducing the reliance on potentially unstable or inconsistent foreign supplies;
- **Innovative** –improve upon fertilizer production methods to jump start the next generation of fertilizers;
- **Sustainable** – reduces the greenhouse gas impact of transportation, production, and use through renewable energy sources, feedstocks, formulations, and incentivizing greater precision in fertilizer use;
- **Farmer-focused** – like other Commodity Credit Corporation investments, a driving factor will be providing support and opportunities for U.S. agriculture commodity producers.

Details on the application process will be announced in the summer of 2022, with the first awards expected before the end of 2022.

GROWERS

From Page 13

product back across to Asia, and our farmers have had hard time getting inputs,” he said in a recent interview on AFBF’s *Newsline* podcast.

Sarah Dressel is a fourth-generation farmer who works in her family’s 300-acre apple farm in New Paltz where she manages its retail stand, u-pick operation, and all other horticultural responsibilities. She says that her farm will be able to sustain the increase in fertilizer prices this season.

“We had a little bit of surplus from last year, so we were able to reduce how much we were going to order this year. Fortunately, perennials with pretty solid roots don’t need a ton. We’ve done a lot more soil samples this year than in previous years,” she said.

Dressel says cardboard box shipment is taking twice as long as normal and when they do arrive, sometimes it’s partial orders.

“There’s quite a bit of back ordering for packaging containers and the price is going up as well,” Dressel said.

David Schoonmaker, one of the owners at Saunderskill Farms in Accord, says his family operation is doing well due to all supplies being ordered last fall. Saunderskill Farms grows mostly bedding plants, hanging baskets, bedding plants, tomato and pepper transplants and a few perennials.

“We bought fertilizer last fall for \$100 more a ton than we paid last year, but since then it’s gone up another \$400-\$500,” he said. “Now the only worry is next year.”

According to a recent study released by AFBF, major nutrients used in the production of primary row crops in the U.S., nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium have experienced varying degrees of upward price pressure.

Compared to September 2020 prices, ammonia has increased over 210%, liquid nitrogen has increased over 159%, urea is up 155%, and MAP has increased 125%, while DAP is up over 100% and potash has risen above 134%.

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The Hidden Side of Healthcare Costs for Aging Farmers and Ranchers

*The following information is provided by Nationwide, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.**



For many farmers, retirement is just not something they intend to do. While the average age of a U.S. farmer continues to climb and now stands at 57.5 years,¹ health issues may force some operators to retire or semi-retire from the day-to-day farm activities earlier than intended. A large consideration facing aging farmers or ranchers is the health care options available to them, and how they will pay for these services. For many Americans 65 and older, the answer is Medicare.²

Individuals are entitled to Medicare so long as they are a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. who has lived in the U.S. for at least five years. The program's benefits can be great but determining the participation level to elect can be somewhat confusing.

Most farmers qualify for Part A coverage under Medicare at no out of pocket expense so long as either the individual or their spouse has paid Medicare taxes for at least 10 years. Care under Part A only covers inpatient hospital stays and/or a skilled nursing facility. This leaves many individuals seeking additional coverage for doctor services, outpatient care, vision, dental, hearing, and potentially other care needs not covered under Part A. These additional services are generally covered though Part B and Part C of Medicare. However, unlike Part A, individuals wishing to participate in these

Individuals are entitled to Medicare so long as they are a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. who has lived in the U.S. for at least five years.

additional coverages will be required to pay the additional premiums associated with those plans. Combined costs could be hundreds of dollars monthly and prove to be burdensome to not only the individual but potentially the farm as well.

One way to plan for these costs is to set aside funds to provide the additional level of income that will be needed to pay for these premiums. To determine the appropriate amount of funds to set aside, it is critical to determine what coverage is desired and its associated cost. Nationwide, in partnership with leading physicians and other professionals, created a tool that analyzes your personal health and lifestyle information, healthcare costs based on your region, actuarial data and medical coverage to estimate the additional costs of healthcare beyond your Medi-



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Learn more by viewing our on-demand financial webinars at www.nationwide.com/nyfb.

* 2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA NASS, April 2019
2PL. 89-97

*A.M. Best Market Share DWP 2017. Based on statutory data

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work with their financial professional to discuss their specific situation.

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LINDSAY WICKHAM/NYFB STAFF

Broome County Ag Month Proclamation
Broome County Farm Bureau President Andrea Eichhorn and previous president Dave Johnson receive a proclamation declaring March as Agriculture Month, from Broome County Legislators Matt Hilderbrant and Scott Baker on behalf of the county legislature.

AFBF MARKET INTEL

Production Costs Outpacing Commodity Prices

AFBF

The cost of growing crops could outpace revenue for many farmers in 2022, making it more difficult to break even despite rising commodity prices and increased demand both domestically and globally. The American Farm Bureau Federation is launching a series of Market Intel articles examining rising farm production expenses.

The first report concludes that farm production costs are likely to increase 6% in 2022, which follows a 12% increase in 2021. This continues a trend stretching back several years. Since 2013, farmers have seen almost all production expenses increase. For example, livestock and poultry expenses have gone up 46% and marketing, storage and transportation costs have increased 59%.

Farmers are seeing a number of production cost increases including:

- Rising fertilizer, seed and chemical prices, which now make up to 17.5% of on-farm expenditures
- Rising fuel and energy prices, exacerbated by uncertainty due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict
- Increased costs of labor, both on-farm and for agribusinesses serving farms
- COVID-19 disruption of labor markets and production

“The rising prices for fuel, fertilizer

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the entire Market Intel here:
<https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-market-intel1>

and other supplies create an unwelcome counterforce to higher commodity prices,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Higher prices for crops are getting a lot of attention right now and of course help farmers balance the books, but when expenses are rising just as quickly or even outpacing revenue, the financial gains evaporate. Right now, there are serious concerns about whether farmers will be able to access the supplies they need to put a crop in the ground.”

AFBF is working to ensure the administration and Congress understand the severity and potential implications of increased production costs and the limited availability of some supplies.

Future Market Intel articles will explore the rising cost of production expenses like seed, pesticides, energy, machinery, land, labor, credit and water. A Market Intel analyzing fertilizer prices was published in December 2021.

Farm Credit East Releases Market Outlook Report

Farm Credit East recently released its 2022 Insights & Perspectives report which includes market outlooks for multiple sectors, including dairy, grain and oilseeds, greenhouse and nursery, lobster, forest products, and vegetable crops.

“As we’ve seen in the past two years, Northeast farmers, commercial fishermen and forest products businesses are resilient and continue to think strategically about their businesses and adjust as necessary,” said Mike Reynolds, Farm Credit East CEO. “Farm Credit East has

tapped into our network of experts, both internal and external, to produce this year’s report. Our goal is to provide producers with the knowledge and expertise needed to inform their business decisions.”

The report’s first article is an update from Farm Credit East Director of Knowledge Exchange, Chris Laughton, on the state of Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing, and forest products.

To view the report, titled 2022 Insights and Perspectives, visit FarmCreditEast.com/reports.

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¹ A.M. Best Market Share Report 2019.
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Employees prepare maple samples at Parker Family Maple Farm in West Chazy.

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Maple Weekend attendees go on a farm tour Shaver-Hill Maple in Harpersfield, NY.



SPECIAL/SHAVER HILL FARM



PAMELA ZWOLINSK/NYFB STAFF



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Above: Bob Chambers of Dry Brook Sugarhouse in Salem, NY explains the syrup making process to a couple of visitors.

Left: The evaporator at Sweet Dreams in Corfu, NY.



Above: Myla McGrath holds maple cream and a frosted cookie. She is the granddaughter of Bruce Thompson, owner of Southville Maple in Potsdam, NY.

Below: Brian Ducharme, co-owner of Wild Hill Maple in Salem, NY explains the syrup making process next to the evaporator in his sugar shack.



SPECIAL/WILD HILL MAPLE



PAMELA ZWOLINSK/NYFB STAFF

Randall's Maple Product in Alexander, NY displays 30 years of first-pour of the year samples.

The Return of Maple Weekends

New York Maple Producers were delighted to welcome the public back to their farms and sugarhouses to celebrate the first crop of the year with March Maple Weekends.. The weather cooperated so that most farms were actively producing sap and boiling syrup during the event. Producers said were that attendance was strong – some saw the largest ever.



SPECIAL/PHYLLIS COUTURE, WYOMING COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Above: Lyle Merle tapping a tree in preparation for the Maple Weekends at Merle's Maple Farms in Wyoming County. Below: A crowd enjoys the warm weather outside Dry Brook Sugar House in Salem, NY.



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Safety Group 486 Safety Committee Holds First Meeting

The NY Farm Bureau Members Services Inc. as Group Manager for Safety Group 486 hosted the first meeting of a newly created Safety Committee via Zoom on March 22.

The Safety Committee is comprised of five members who have been appointed by the Safety Group 486 Executive Committee. The Safety Committee will provide input, strategy, and analysis to the Safety Group 486 Executive Committee on issues related to claims, safety training, etc. that affect Safety Group 486 policy holders and the group performance.

During the initial meeting, Michele Bates, NYFB Manager of Workers'



Workers' Comp
Corner

By Henry Talmage
htalmage@nyfb.org

Compensation Insurance Services and Don Stephens, New York State Insurance Fund Risk Control Consultant reviewed the 2021 Risk Control Loss Analysis for the group.

The analysis contains information on the five-year history of the num-

ber, type, and size of losses occurred. It also contains detailed information on the financial implications of those losses to the performance of the group.

The committee will be reviewing the information as well as other informa-

tion in order to provide recommendations that will improve the group performance further.

Safety Group 486 has had strong performance over the years. Because of that strong performance we have been able to lower the cost of workers' compensation insurance to our members by returning an average dividend of 41% over the past five years.

We have also been able to provide an upfront discount of up to 25%. We are looking forward to working with the new safety committee and executive committee to improve that performance even further.



SPECIAL




SPECIAL

Fire Equipment Donated to Ukraine

Jay Canzonier, owner of North Branch Farms in Belleville, NY stands with an assortment of fire turn-out gear and other fire fighting items collected from over 29 different Northern New York fire fighting companies. In total the campaign collected 200 complete sets of turn-out gear that were delivered to New Jersey for final loading before being shipped to Ukraine with other sets of gear collected from various fire departments throughout the Northeast. Canzonier is a member of the Belleville Fire Department and also a board member for Jefferson County Farm Bureau.


Left: This Ukrainian flag will be flown in front of the fire stations where the donated items will be sent, it will be adorned with patches from each of the fire departments that donated turn-out gear to the project. All of the departments who donated will have their station patch sewn on Ukrainian flags that will be flown in front of stations in Ukraine.

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SPECIAL

April Showers *and* PSA Grower Training Providing *NEW GROWTH* to New York State Farms!



The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) provides food safety training to fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

The PSA Grower Training Course satisfies the FSMA Produce Safety Rule training requirement *“At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.”*

Further details on PSA Grower Training Courses are available at the PSA website: <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training>

For more information, visit the New York State Department and Agriculture and Markets website at:

<https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/food-safety-modernization-act>

Or contact the Produce Safety Unit at (518) 457-3846.

This project is supported by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award [FAIN] totaling \$992,500 with 100 percent funded by FDA/HHS. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by FDA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

USDA-NIFA Invests More Than \$15M in Agricultural Economics, Rural Communities

NIFA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently announced an investment of over \$15 million to support building new and better markets for U.S. agriculture and rural communities.

“These critical research investments support the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agriculture and rural communities,” said NIFA Director Dr. Carrie Castille. “Outcomes of this research will inform decision making, policy design and implementation

to enhance agricultural production systems and promote rural economic development and prosperity that is inclusive, equitable and has long-lasting impacts.”

This investment is under the NIFA’s Agricultural Economics and Rural Communities (AERC) program’s Economics, Markets and Trade priority area. AERC addresses challenges facing the evolving agricultural sector within rural communities, including implications for food production and consumption, and natural resources management to protect the environ-

ment in the face of increasing global demands for food production.

AERC is part of the NIFA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative’s Foundational and Applied Science program, which builds on the fundamental and applied knowledge foundation in food and agricultural sciences that is critical for solving real-world problems.

Collectively, this funding will support 27 projects. These research projects will develop theories, methods and applications for agricultural economics.



Liz Callahan

CCE Schoharie, Otsego welcomes Liz Callahan

Cornell Cooperative Extension Schoharie and Otsego Counties

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie and Otsego Counties (CCE SO) is pleased to welcome Liz Callahan of Cooperstown NY, as their new Executive Director, beginning April 12, 2022. Callahan was the Executive Director of Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, NY since 2001. Her work at Hanford Mills included developing the resources to expand the interpretation and preservation of the rural industrial complex and historic site. Liz served as the director of the Delaware County Historical Association in Delhi, NY, and as the Program Coordinator for the Regional Council of Historical Agencies. Through all of this work she has also been active in building the capacity and the sustainability of the region’s cultural resources, non-profits and communities for more than 25 years.

Liz lives in Cooperstown, NY with her husband, Bill Francis (Senior Researcher, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum), and their son Daniel Francis (Gallery Manager, Cooperstown Art Association). Their daughter, Matilda Francis, will graduate from St. John’s University, Queens, NY in May.

Liz has been a resident of Otsego County for over 30 years. Before moving to Cooperstown in 1991 to pursue a masters in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, Liz served as a VISTA volunteer and worked in enrollment management at LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY.

She has a BA in English/Communications from LeMoyne College. Liz grew up in Western New York where she participated in 4-H program in North Boston, NY and graduated from Nardin Academy of Buffalo, NY.

“I am honored to begin working with the talented and dedicated staff and volunteers who are bringing Cornell Cooperative Extension’s outstanding programs and resources to our communities and to lead an organization that plays such an important role in the vitality of communities throughout Schoharie and Otsego Counties,” said Callahan.

CCE SO, is a non-profit community education agency, affiliated with Cornell University as part of the national land grant university system. As educators, researchers, specialists, support personnel and an army of volunteers, we are dedicated to making our counties worthwhile, sustainable places to live and work. CCE staff helps preserve our county’s vast agricultural heritage, protect our ecological infrastructure, support families, and provide youth opportunities for community service and research-based education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).



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News Briefs

USDOL Updates Allowable Meal Charges and Reimbursements for H-2 Workers

The U.S. Department of Labor has updated the allowable charges that employers seeking H-2A workers, may charge their workers when the employer provides meals and the maximum travel subsistence meal reimbursement that a worker with receipts may claim under the H-2A and H-2B programs. Per the update, the job offer must not charge an H-2A worker more than \$14 a day for meals without receipts. The notice explains that in a job offer to U.S. and H-2A workers, the employer either must offer and state that it will provide each worker with three (3) meals a day or must state that it will furnish free and convenient cooking and kitchen facilities to the workers that will enable the workers to prepare their own meals. If the employer is going to provide the meals to the workers, the job offer must state the charge, if any, to the worker for such meals.

In its job offer to U.S. and H-2A workers, the employer must state the minimum and maximum amounts of money that workers will receive for daily subsistence when traveling to and from the place of employment. For workers who complete 50% or more of the work contract period, the employer must provide, pay in advance, or reimburse workers for subsistence expenses

Similarly, an H-2B employer is responsible for providing, paying in advance, or reimbursing a worker for the reasonable costs of transportation and daily subsistence between the place of employment and the place from which the worker has come to work for the employer—if the worker completes 50 percent of the job order period—and upon the worker completing the job order period or being dismissed early (for any reason), return costs as well. When traveling from the home country to the worksite, employees will receive at least \$14 a day but up to \$59 a day with documentation of actual expenses for subsistence. The employer must also provide or pay the reasonable costs for lodging where lodging is necessary. If not provided by the employer, the amount an employer must pay for transportation and, where necessary, lodging must be no less than (and is not required to be more than) the most economical and reasonable costs. More information is available here.

USDA Commits \$215 Million to Enhance Meat Processing Capacity

The USDA has announced it is making available up to \$215 million in grants and other support to expand meat and poultry processing options, strengthen the food supply chain, and create jobs

and economic opportunities in rural areas. USDA Rural Development (RD) will make \$150 million available in grants to fund startup and expansion activities in the meat and poultry processing sector. USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will provide another \$40 million for workforce development and training, and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will provide \$25 million to offer technical assistance to grant applicants and others seeking resources related to meat and poultry processing. For additional information, applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to visit the MPPEP website: www.rd.usda.gov/mppep. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 11, 2022, through www.grants.gov.

For job training, the primary investment will be through competitive grants to support workforce training at community, junior and technical colleges with programs specifically for meat and poultry processing. A Request for Applications will be published in April 2022. Additional investments, either through the same or new programs and partnerships, are expected later this year. USDA expects to continue working with the Department of Labor to support and encourage the development of good jobs in the agricultural sector, including jobs in meat and poultry processing.

FDA Issues Guidance on Enforcement Discretion Policies for Certain FSMA Regulations

The FDA has issued guidance on its intent not to enforce certain provisions of five rules that implement the Food Safety Modernization Act. In certain situations, the FDA has determined it is appropriate to take time to consider options, including rulemaking, to address concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the implementation of certain FSMA provisions. As FDA works to address stakeholder concerns, the agency does not intend to enforce these provisions as they currently apply to entities or activities addressed in the guidance.

The enforcement discretion policies announced are specific to provisions in the following rules:

Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food; Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Animal Food; Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP); Produce Safety (PSR); and Intentional Adulteration (IA). The purpose of the guidance document is to state that the FDA, based on its current understanding of the risks, does not intend to enforce certain regulatory requirements as they currently apply to certain entities and activities. A copy of the enforcement guidance can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/media/156729/download>.

DOT Extends Modified National Emergency Declaration for Commercial Vehicles

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has extended their modified expanded national emergency declaration to provide hours-of-service regulatory relief to commercial vehicle drivers transporting emergency relief in response to the nationwide coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The notice extends the exemption through May 31, 2022. The Emergency Declaration has been in effect since March 18, 2020 and grants relief to motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 public health emergency from Parts 390 through 399 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, such as hours-of-service



rules. This includes the transportation of live-stock and livestock feeds, food, paper products and other groceries for emergency restocking of distribution centers or stores.

USDA Updates Farm Loan Programs to Increase Equity

The USDA is updating its farm loan programs to better support current borrowers, including historically underserved producers. The 2018 Farm Bill authorized FSA to provide equitable relief to certain direct loan borrowers, who are non-compliant with program requirements due to good faith reliance on a material action of, advice of, or non-action from an FSA official. Previously, borrowers may have been required to immediately repay the loan or convert it to a non-program loan with higher interest rates, less favorable terms, and limited loan servicing.

If the agency provided incorrect guidance to an existing direct loan borrower, the agency may provide equitable relief to that borrower. FSA may assist the borrower by allowing the borrower to keep their loans at current rates or other terms received in association with the loan which was determined to be noncompliant, or the borrower may receive other equitable relief for the loan as the Agency determines to be appropriate. Other changes that were previously implemented include: Modifying the existing three-year farming experience requirement for Direct Farm Ownership loans to include additional items as acceptable experience. Allowing socially disadvantaged and beginning farmer applicants to receive a guarantee equal to 95%, rather than the otherwise applicable 90 percent guarantee. Expanding the definition of and providing additional benefits to veteran farmers. Allowing borrowers who received restructuring with a write down to maintain eligibility for an Emergency loan. Expanding the scope of eligible issues and persons covered under the agricultural Certified Mediation Program. For more information, contact your local USDA-FSA office.

Sign-up by June 30 to be Counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture

June 30, 2022 is the last day to sign up for the 2022 Ag Census. If you have never received a census and are new to NASS surveys, sign up to be counted today. You do not need to sign up if you already receive NASS surveys. Key Dates: June 30, 2022 – sign up ends; November 2022 – ag census mails out and data collection begins; February 6, 2023 – response deadline; 2024 (TBD) – data release

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. To sign-up, visit: <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/static/get-counted.html>.

**Do you have historical,
farm or event photos
you'd like to share with
Grassroots?**



**Please e-mail them to
communications@nyfb.org
with caption information.**



Congress Passes FY22 Omnibus Appropriations Package, Funds Government through September 2022

Congress has passed the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) omnibus to fund the government through September 2022 and provide emergency funding for efforts to support Ukraine. The \$1.5 trillion package is comprised of all 12 appropriations bills with \$730 billion in non-defense funding, a \$46 billion or 6.7% increase over fiscal year 2021. It includes \$13.6 billion in supplemental funding to support Ukraine.

The House split consideration of the omnibus with Divisions B, C, F, X, and Z, and Titles 2 and 3 of Division N (security provisions) being adopted on a bipartisan 361 to 69 vote and the remaining divisions adopted on a bipartisan 260 to 171 vote. The Senate considered the legislation and adopted it by a vote of 68-31.

The Agriculture Appropriations Bill provides discretionary funding of \$25.1 billion which represents an increase of \$1.4 billion or 6 percent above FY21. The bill provides the following:

Agricultural Research: Provides more than \$3.5 billion for agricultural research programs; **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):** Provides \$1.11 billion for APHIS, an increase of more than \$46 million above the FY21 enacted level. **Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS):** Provides \$226 million for AMS programs to improve domestic and international opportunities for our nation’s farmers and ranchers. **Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS):** Provides \$1.11 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. **Farm Service Agency (FSA):** Provides \$1.173 billion for FSA. **Conservation Programs:** Provides \$904 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Conservation Operations to assist with conservation planning and implementation assistance. The bill also provides \$100 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations to protect and restore watersheds across the country. **Rural Development (RD):** Provides \$3.9 billion for Rural Development. **Nutrition Programs:** Provides full funding for nutrition programs to serve the estimated need for FY22. **International Food Assistance:** Provides \$1.74 billion for Food for Peace Title II Grants and \$237 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program.

Provisions that Farm Bureau supported include: **Broadband:** Provides \$486.6 million for the ReConnect Program. **Cattle Contract Library Pilot Program:** Provides \$1 million for USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service to establish a cattle contract library pilot program. **Electronic Logging Devices:** Prohibits through the remainder of FY22 the Department of Transportation from enforcing the electronic logging device mandate on those haulers transporting livestock and insects. **Livestock Mandatory Reporting:** Extends the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act through September 30, 2022. **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Enforcement:** Prevents OSHA enforcement on farms with ten or fewer employees that does not maintain a temporary labor camp. **Unionization of Agriculture Labor:** Prohibits federal funds from being available to agricultural labor unions for organizing.

Now Congress awaits the release of President Biden’s fiscal 2023 budget proposal and appropriators will shift focus to fiscal year 2023 appropriations.

NYFB Files Comments on Transitional Standards for Milk in Schools

New York Farm Bureau submitted comments to the USDA-Food and Nutrition Service on the provisions of the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium final rule. USDA is finalizing its Nov. 25, 2020, proposed remaking regarding child nutrition meal pattern requirements. This rule finalizes the proposed milk provision by



allowing local operators of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program to offer flavored, low-fat milk (1% fat) for students in grades K through 12 and for sale as a competitive beverage. It will also allow flavored, low-fat milk in the Special

Milk Program for Children and in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for participants ages 6 and older. Beginning in SY 2022-2023, this final rule will require at least 80 percent of the weekly grains in the school lunch and breakfast menus to be whole grain-rich. Lastly, this final rule will modify the proposed sodium standards and establish Sodium Target 1 as the sodium limit for school lunch and breakfast in SY 2022-2023 as proposed, but implement a Sodium Interim Target 1A effective for school lunch beginning in SY 2023-2024. NYFB’s comments requested flexibility on flavored milk options as well as urged for reintroduction of whole and 2% milk offerings in schools. A copy of NYFB’s comments can be found on our website.

Trade Updates

The U.S. and the United Kingdom (UK) have resolved their steel and aluminum dispute with a tariff-rate quota for UK steel and aluminum products entering the U.S. The U.S. imposed a twenty-five percent tariff on EU, including the UK at that time, steel exports and a ten percent tariff on aluminum exports in June 2018.

The steel and aluminum tariffs and retaliation continued after the UK left the EU. The UK will remove tariffs on agricultural and other products that were imposed in retaliation for the U.S. Section 232 (national security) tariffs on UK steel and aluminum. Under the agreement 500,000 tons of UK steel can enter the U.S. annually duty-free. U.S. agricultural products on the UK retaliation list with twenty-five percent tariffs imposed includes orange juice, wheat, corn, whiskey, wines, and other products. The U.S. and the UK will also engage in talks with other nations to address global steel overcapacity

The U.S. and the EU have previously resolved their steel dispute. The deal will go into effect on June 1, 2022.

Brazil has suspended their eighteen percent tariff on imports of ethanol for the remainder of 2022. The import tariff was imposed on the U.S. in December 2020 when the U.S. and Brazil were not able to reach an agreement to extend the tariff-free treatment for imports of U.S. ethanol.

The temporary elimination of the import tariffs should improve access for U.S. ethanol exports. Due to the tariffs, U.S. ethanol exports to Brazil declined from over 4.4 million barrels in 2020 to 1.8 million barrels in 2021. Brazil says this action is intended to fight inflation by reducing domestic fuel prices.

USDA to Conduct Maple Syrup Survey

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the 2022 Maple Syrup Survey for the Northeast Region. The survey will collect information from approximately 1,700 Northeastern producers.

“The Northeastern Region produced 2.97 million gallons of maple syrup in 2021. Vermont was the top Maple Syrup state with 45 percent of the United States’ maple syrup,” according to King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. “Taps in the Northeastern Region totaled 11.9 million and accounted for 90 percent of the Nation’s maple taps,” added Whetstone.

The 2022 survey will ask about the 2022 and 2021 taps and production as well as price information on the syrup produced in 2021. To ensure all survey participants have an opportunity to respond, NASS interviewers may contact producers who do not respond by mail or online to conduct telephone interviews.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents. The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with federal law, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form.

Survey results will be published in the Crop Production report to be released on June 10, 2022. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications. For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

USDA

AFIA Invites Industry Newcomers to Feed Industry Institute

The American Feed Industry Association has opened registration for its popular biennial Feed Industry Institute (FII), which will be offered in a self-paced, virtual learning environment over a span of a few weeks this summer. The conference, which kicks off June 6 and culminates on Aug. 1, brings together industry newcomers to learn the fundamentals of the animal food manufacturing process – from the types of ingredients used to the animals served to federal policies that shape the output of the industry.

Topics will include an overview of the U.S. feed industry, animal physiology and nutrition basics, information on the types of ingredients used in animal food and why, the role of medications and other additives, and various processing techniques. It will also look at agriculture’s role in building consumer trust, the role of international trade and provide an overview of state and federal regulations. The full agenda can be found on the event’s website.

The AFIA encourages people to register between now and April 29 to receive the special one-time discounted rate of \$300 for AFIA members and \$650 for non-members. After that, the rate raises to \$450 for AFIA members and \$850 for non-members.

For more information about FII and to register, visit the event’s website at afia.org/events/fii-2022/.

AFIA

Grassroots Farmers Market

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HAY FOR SALE. Tubed round bales of oatlage and 3rd cutting alfalfa mix balayage; 1st & 2nd cutting Savannah-Sorghum balayage and round dry bales under cover. 518-753-4387 or 518-466-1457

RYE STRAW. 3000 small square bales. \$5/bale. donaldmarkoff@yahoo.com or 607-775-2057

HAY FOR SALE. Low carb teff horse hay. 518-461-3779

HAY FOR SALE. 4x4 round bales, dry hay and wrapped. Grass to Alfalfa, variety of stuff. Servicing Delaware and Broome Counties. Delivery available at an extra cost. 607-727-6320

HAY FOR SALE. PREMIUM Quality hay. Orange county. I focus on QUALITY not quantity. Small squares. \$5 1st cutting, \$6 2nd & 3rd cutting at farm. 845-496-4907

HAY FOR SALE. 4x5 mixed grass silage bales. 1st cutting, 1200lbs \$30; 2nd cutting, 1600lbs \$40 and 3rd cutting \$2000lbs \$50. Payment prior to loading. Schaghticoke, NY 518-796-2344

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cutting 4x5 round bales \$45/bale. Good quality. Roscoe, NY area. 607-498-5812 leave message.

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cut mixed grass, good quality. \$3.50/bale. Orange County. 845-496-3897

HAY FOR SALE. 2nd cutting hay, excellent quality square bales. 45 pounds. Delany Farms. Syracuse, NY 315-469-1668 DelaneyFarms.com.

HAY FOR SALE. Mixed grasses, small square bales. 48# average. \$4/bale. Boston, NY 716-997-3133

HAY FOR SALE. Small square bales \$3/ bale. Southern Herkimer County 315-866-3348

PREMIUM QUALITY feed grade wheat straw available year-round. Consistent quality and delivery available straight from producer. Volume discounts. Well priced delivered cost. Calebredriverforage@gmail.com Call/text 204-712-6509

HAY FOR SALE. Certified Organic Square Bales of hay \$12 per bale. Free delivery within 10 miles of Snow Hill Farm located in North Salem, NY 914-669-0999

STRAW FOR SALE. Nice straw bales \$3/ bale. Seneca County. 607-279-4262

WANTED. Round bales 4x5 stored inside, horse quality. 1st and 2nd cut delivered to Bethany, CT. Wanted: Big square bales 3x3 and 3x4 delivered to Hamden, CT. Please NO Canary Grass! Call Dick at 203-393-0875 or 475-355-1947

HAY FOR SALE. Organic hay 4x4 round bales 101 1st cutting; 38 2nd cutting. Wrapped. Also 62 non-organic wrapped round bales. Oneida County. 315-240-

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1640

HAY FOR SALE. 2nd cutting small squares. \$4/bale. Delaware County 607-538-1009

HAY FOR SALE. Balayage. North Branch, NY Sullivan County. 845-482-4797 for info.

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cutting, mixed grass, big squares, stored inside. Can deliver. 716-913-6313

HAY FOR SALE. Certified Organic 4x4 round bales, dry hay, 1st cutting. \$35/each. 607-745-4667

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cut, 4x4 round bales. \$40/bale. Plattsburgh, NY Delivery available. 518-561-3555

RYE STRAW grown on ORGANIC fields in Sterling, NY. Small Squares. 215-234-0421

HAY FOR SALE. 4x4.2 round bales. 1st cut 15 minimum \$35/bale, 2nd cut 15 minimum \$40/bale. Plattsburgh, NY Delivery available. 518-578-0135

HAY FOR SALE. Premium soybean & alfalfa balage for winter food plots. Our soybeans have gone to 5 other states. Conrad Cooks Wildlife Buffet. Potsdam, NY 315-265-6788

HAY FOR SALE. 1 & 2nd cut hay. 4x4 round bales. Stored inside. 518-321-2886

HAY FOR SALE. Clover baleage for sale. 2nd, 3rd and 4th cutting. \$70/bale. Cow grain for sale. 607-533-7580

HAY FOR SALE. 1st and 2nd cutting and balage. Large rounds. Broome County. 607-725-5511

HAY FOR SALE. Top quality baleage. 1st,2nd and 3rd cutting. Also 1st cut dry. 315-717-8488

HAY FOR SALE. 5x5 round bales, 1st and 2nd cut mixed grass starting at \$45/ bale. Large square bales 3x3x7 2nd cut mixed grass \$75/bale. 518-429-8672 or 518-231-2120

HAY FOR SALE. 2nd cut small squares. \$6/bale. Oneida County 315-725-7752

HAY FOR SALE. 4x4 dry round bales, mixed grasses, stored inside. \$35/each.Small square bales 2nd cut, mixed grasses \$5/each Boonville, NY 315-942-4475

TRACTORS, MACHINERY

JOHN DEERE

JD 5055E TRACTOR in new condition. Full 5E cab with 520M Std. Farm Loader 2018 model with 16.4hrs on machine. \$44,000; 2018 Frontier RC 2084 Lift type Rotary Cutter, new condition. \$3,100. 919-796-1959 Cooperstown, NY.

JD 3975 CHOPPER. 7' hay 2RC KP Hyd. Tongue. Electric controls Intelliguard knives 50% Shed Kept. 518-578-6162

JD 3970 FORAGE Harvester 2 row corn head, very good hay head. Good machine. \$12,500; JD 7700 4WD PS, good rubber, wheel weight, front weights, \$29,000. Call 315-387-7014 Leave message.

JD 3010 DIESEL W3020 kit. New rubber with 4B mounted plow. Chemung County 607-739-7486

JD ANTIQUE “L”. Great condition. 845-986-5814

STEEL WHEELS. JD 1 bottom sidehill hitch \$250; JD 1 bottom trail wheel \$250; JD 2 bottom, Syracuse moldboards \$500; 3 JD 2 bottom parts plows \$200. ALL for \$1,000 OBO.

JD 2520 TRACTOR with Quick hitch loader, snowblower, soft cab, 4x4, Hydro, Turf tires, 1260 hours. \$12,500 CASH Brockport, NY 585-362-7039

ALLIS CHALMERS

1947 ALLIS CHALMERS Model C with 2 bottom plow, cultivator and owners' manual. Ex. Cond. \$2200; JD Model

290 2-row corn planter. Needs new tin for fertilizer hoppers. Owners' manual included \$700. 315-655-2816

ACT TWIN WHEEL 7' sickle bar mower, 3pt hitch, 710.0 IH 6' cut horse drawn mower with dolly wheel. 585-703-8243

MASSEY FERGUSON

1990-91 MASSEY 1035. Many new parts, has front bucket and rear backhoe. Runs very well. 4 - wheel drive, \$10,000. 518-733-9332

MF 261, 2WD, 53HP Loader w/ independent hydraulic pump and reservoir; bucket and forks; tire chains. Starts and runs well. PTO clutch and hours meter not working. \$14,000 Madison. 315-882-2458

BUCKET for a 1954 Ferguson Tractor T 30 for sale. \$50. Big Flats, NY. 607-739-7512

FERGUSON T020. Good Condition \$3,000. Troy, NY 518-279-3241

MASSEY HARRIS PONY rebuilt engine. New paint/tires/decals. Parade ready \$3500. 607-329-3669 leave message

MOLINE

1960 MOLINE 705G Restored, new tires \$6,000; 1 Super 88 Oliver, all restored, new tires \$5,000. 845-726-4180

NEW HOLLAND

NH TR85 ROTARY COMBINE, 2700 hours, CAT 3208 engine, 2WD, 18' grain head; Fox 3000 Forage Chopper with hay head and 2 row corn head. Electric knife sharpener. Both machines in excellent condition and always stored inside. 585-658-4601

FP230 NH CHOPPER with both heads. Great shape. 27p hay head, 824 corn head 2 row. Metal alert and hydraulic tongue. Champlain, NY 518-298-3564

NH 311 BAILER with JD 40 Kicker. New: Knotter Cams, Pickup Cam, Drive Shaft, Kicker Pam, Spring and electric tilt. Joy stick control. Always inside. \$5500. 315-759-8987

FARMALL

MCCORMICK FARMALL CUB serial# 222673J, 60" belly mower and snow blower. Erie County. \$4,000. Fred at 716-337-3679

CASE

LIQUIDATING: 1958 Case 300 Tractor with loader, needs work with plow, loader and tire chains; Case Model D "parts," 2012 mini-baler. Email rolinsmith@yahoo.com or kro. smith1969 @ gmail.com. 315-868-7605. Se habla espanol.

CASE IH 600 silage blower, stored inside, good shape; 10ft Ag. Bagger, needs gearbox and rotor; Hesston 7170 with 3-row corn & hay head. Wyoming County. 585-689-9208

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER Farmall Super A. 12-volt conversion, good paint, runs great, snow plough, tire chains, belly

Grassroots Farmers Market

mount mower all included. All work as they should. \$3200 OBO 716-603-5264

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER McCormick #7 fertilizer spreader, excellent condition, \$950.00 or BO. 19 ft. Cargo Box \$450.00 or BO. Call: 315-699-2200

IH 786 STRAIGHT, good TA, 358 German with turbo, Dual remote, dual pto. 18.4.38 \$9500. 518-222-6291

DOZERS/LOADERS

LOADER FOR SALE. Great Ben 440 Quick Tach Loader used very little \$2500; Grinn Hay Fluffer \$150; Honda VLX600 Shadow Motorcycle (woman owned) \$3200. 518-756-2070

CAT 953 LOADER, good condition, 3 in 1 bucket. Exc. Tracks and undercarriage \$24,000 obo; CAT 926M-2017. SIN LTE04397, CAT C-7.1 diesel engine, powershift transmission, 2.7yd bucket, hydraulic coupler, heated mirrors, Heat & Ac Exc. 708hrs. \$160,000. call 914-949-4100 gedneyfarmsnursery@gmail.com

DL3000 KELLEY loader (good condition) Universal with control valve and 4 hydraulic lines for hookup. Must be able to transport from Athens, NY \$2,300. Call/text 518-573-1216

KOMATSU WHEEL LOADER engine completely rebuilt by Komatsu Dealer, 125hr on new engine. Includes bucket, hvy duty forks, 8’ snow bucket \$24,000; KOMATSU Forklift. Exc cond. 9520 lbs. machine weight, 6000 lift capacity. Sliding forks. \$14,500; CAT Dozer with wide tracks. D3 in good condition \$23,000. Call Jack 716-481-9530

KOMATSU BULLDOZER MODEL D21E-6. Needs engine rebuilt. Complete machine. \$1250.00 Bay Shore, NY 631-305-8118

“HESSTON” LOADER for Hesston 55-66 tractor. Two sets of mounting brackets so loader can fit other tractors. \$1500 obo. 518-753-0406

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

JD 148 LOADER W/ 84” BUCKET and Control Valves w/Heavy Duty Supporting Superstructure Fits 20-30-40 Series – Excellent - \$3950;IH 2-row corn planter with fertilizer – Excellent \$1250; Ford HD 3- pt Posthole digger – 12” Auger – Very Good - \$750. Call 585-735-5598

JD 4030 FARM TRACTOR – good back tires, needs some paint \$12,000; Allis Chalmers 170 farm tractor with Allis-Chalmers 175 motor \$4,000 (price firm); Weaverline Electric Feed Cart with one year old apron feed chain and sprockets (holds roughly five hundred pounds of feed) \$1500 with charger or \$1,000 without charger. 607-538-9029

SAFETY WANTED: Older tractors seeking Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) look no further! Call 1-877-767-7748 The National ROPS Rebate Program helps locate ROPS and rebate 70% of the cost to retrofit!

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TEW SERIES 2540 MODEL NR Sorting table; Receiver belt, Washer, Absorber, Rollover conveyor, (2) sizing units, (2) side tables, rotary table. Label printer EZ2250 Thermal Transfer Printer, mini-cat-10A Universal Label Rewinder, Seagull Scientific’s bar tender label software and (2) label applicators. Brightwater Farms, LLC 631-655-5411 or Llaccounting@brightwaterfarms.com.

WHITE OLIVER Backhoe 478-17 enclosed cab, 345 Ford Tractor diesel front loader, 2-wheel drive, attachments. Suffolk County. Don between 5-8PM 631-831-5548 or donsgarage@optonline.net.

1940 CLETRAC HG good condition \$3500; DEARBORN 3 pt hitch sickle bar mower, needs work \$500; LINCOLN Ranger 9 welder on trailer, cow movers very nice. 518-234-2683

USED FULL 7-INCH SYRUP press with new air diaphragm pump \$1750; 2000 gallon glass lined tank with large manholes \$2500. 607-264-3225

800 KELLEY LOADER with Quick Attach boom, 84” bucket. Will fit most water cooler Belarus Tractor. Price reduced to \$2,000. 2 used tires and rims 11.2 28’s \$200 each. 1 tire and tube 3.0 x 2.0 new \$200. 2 tires and rims 8.30 x 20 used \$100 each. 1 front rim 11.2 x 20. \$250 price reduced. 1 front rim used 11.2 x 20 \$150. 315-699-2459

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BELLY MOWER model 914 fits a FORD 1520 \$500; CASE VAC \$1500; Gaggie of Gravelys 1 – L8 2 – LS, snowblower, 30” mower, 2 rotary plows all \$600. 518-372-0936 after 6pm

FORD 4 BOTTOM PLOW, Ford 4 row corn planter, Wheel hay rack. 607-988-6662

OLIVER 1655 Diesel Tractor, engine overhauled \$6,000; Farmall 400, 12-volt system, hydraulics, 1 owner \$2,500. Call Tony or Marie 843-672-9794

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GEHL 1085 CHOPPER, processor, metal-alert, 4 heads, spout extension. 3 GEHL roofed and tandem wagons. GEHL 1540 blower. 1060 GEHL chopper for parts. Always shed kept. Will separate. 315-269-0861

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MOWING

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AGRI-BALANCE SERVICES McDowell & Walker Inc now hiring Agronomy Personnel. Spray & Fertilize Applicators. Full time or seasonal. Come join our team! Send resume to: barryj@mcdowellwalker.com.

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“UNDERTAKINGS OF AN UNDERTAKER”, a memoir book by Stanley Swan, a rural N.Y.S. funeral director. For cost and signed copies, email Stan at undertakings@inbox.com.

SEE FARMING IN NY thru eyes of 11 yr. old. Visit YOUTUBE and search “4th Gen Dairy Farmer” for videos. 716-474-1705 for more info

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Increasing and Expanding Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity

\$23.6 Million Available for Meat, Poultry Readiness Grant Program; Technical Assistance Now Available to Processors

USDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the launch of the Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) to provide technical assistance to meat and poultry grant applicants and grant-funded projects. Processors and applicants involved with the Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program and the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) can access this technical assistance. USDA also announced it is now accepting applications for \$23.6 million in competitive grant funding available through the MPIRG program.

Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA)

As part of Biden-Harris Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat

and Poultry Supply Chain, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has established cooperative agreements with three non-profit organizations to coordinate and provide technical assistance utilizing a wide range of expertise and outreach strategies. These organizations will also establish a national network of support for meat and poultry grant applicants to navigate the application process, and to assist grant recipients throughout their project.

Taking the lead role, the Flower Hill Institute, a Native owned nonprofit based out of the Jemez Pueblo in New Mexico, will serve as the MPPTA Technical Assistance Coordinator for this multi-year program. In close cooperation with AMS, they will connect USDA grant applicants and grant-funded project managers to the experts best suited to support a project's needs. They are joined by Oregon State

University's Niche Meat Processors Assistance Network and the Intertribal Agriculture Council. USDA is also pursuing agreements with the American Association of Meat Processors, the American Meat Science Association, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute to expand assistance and provide the depth and capacity needed for meat and poultry projects nationwide. All MPPTA organizations will use both in-house resources and their connections within the industry, academia, and state and federal government to connect stakeholders to four distinct technical assistance scopes: federal grant application management; business development and financial planning; meat and poultry processing technical and operational support; and supply chain development.

Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants (MPIRG)

AMS is accepting applications now through May 24, 2022 for a second round of MPIRG program funding totaling \$23.6 million.

"We are building on the success of the first round of our MPIRG program to build capacity and increase economic opportunities for small and mid-sized meat and poultry processors and producers around the country," said Secretary Vilsack.

USDA encourages grant applications that focus on improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency; developing new and expanding existing markets; increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand; maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards; obtaining a larger commercial presence; and increasing access to slaughter or processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, and veteran producers.

Eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities must be operational and not have a Federal Grant of Inspection or comply with the Cooperative Interstate Shipment program at the time of application. These entities include commercial businesses, cooperatives, and tribal enterprises. MPIRG's

▶ FOR MORE INFORMATION

MPPTA
To learn more about the MPPTA program, or to initiate a request for technical assistance under this program, visit the AMS webpage www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/mppta. For information on MPIRG, MPPEP, and USDA's other Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Initiatives, visit www.usda.gov/meat.

MPIRG
Applications must be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on May 24, 2022. Any grant application submitted after the due date will not be considered unless the applicant provides documentation of an extenuating circumstance that prevented their timely submission of the grant application. Read more in AMS Late and Non-Responsive Application Policy at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/AMS-policy>

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Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection project type is for processing facilities currently in operation and are working toward Federal inspection. Applicants can be located anywhere in the states and territories. MPIRG's Cooperative Interstate Shipment Compliance project type is only for processing facilities located in states with a Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) CIS program. These states currently include Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin. Applicants must be working toward CIS program compliance requirements to operate a state-inspected facility or make a good faith effort toward doing so. Potential applicants should contact FSIS to determine the expenses necessary to obtain a Federal Grant of Inspection or comply with the CIS program.

AMS offers webinars for new applicants to help walk them through the application process while also providing helpful hints on what has made past recipients successful. Additionally, grants management specialists are standing by to answer any incoming questions and emails during regular business hours. For more information about grant eligibility and previously funded projects, visit the MPIRG webpage, or contact us at mpirg@usda.gov.

UKRAINE

From Page 1

export markets were the 27 nations that now comprise the European Union (EU-27) at \$7.6 billion, China at \$4.2 billion, India at \$2 billion, Egypt at \$1.5 billion and Turkey also at \$1.5 billion. These top five markets accounted for more than 60% of Ukraine’s agricultural exports. Ukraine has six primary products with over a billion dollars in export sales: corn (\$5.8 billion), sunflower seed (\$5.7 billion), wheat (\$5.1 billion), rapeseed (\$1.7 billion), barley (\$1.3 billion) and sunflower meal (\$1.2 billion). Combined these top six products accounted for more than 77% of Ukraine’s agricultural exports.

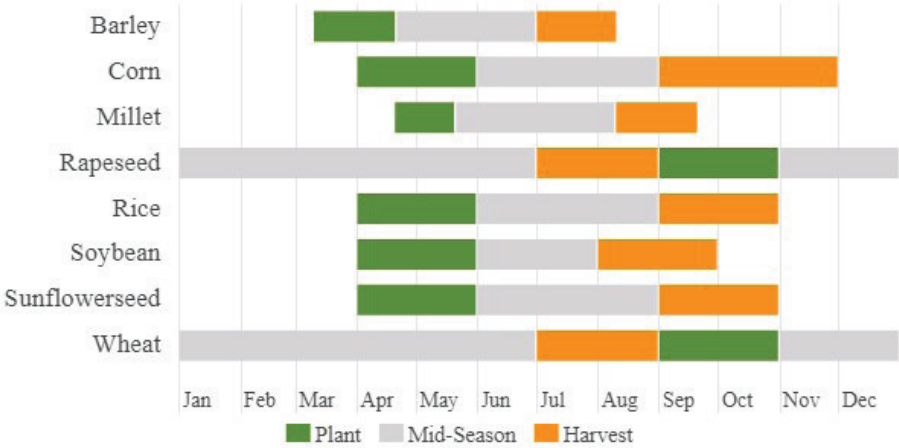
As the assault on Ukraine stretches on, the impacts to Ukraine’s ability to produce the volume of tradeable commodities the global market has grown to depend on will become more significant. A substantial part

of Ukraine’s most productive agricultural land is in its eastern regions, exactly those parts most vulnerable to Russian attacks. The climate and soils of Ukraine have been likened to that of Kansas, Minnesota and North Dakota. And as with farmers in those states, farmers in Ukraine plant most crops in April and May, except wheat and rapeseed, which were planted in September and October and are now in the growth phase.

Not only will an ongoing war likely lead to fewer planted acres, but it is also likely to change the mix of crops that will be planted and harvested. With a heightened focus on feeding the Ukrainian people, it is likely that farmers will be encouraged to plant and harvest crop cereals intended for local consumption, rather than corn, sunflower seed and rapeseed for export. As reported by Reuters, Denys Marchuk, deputy head of the Ukrainian Agrarian Council, told local television,

In the case of crops yet to be plant-

Ukraine – Crop Calendar



AFBF

ed, as well as the wheat and rapeseed crops already in the ground, farmers will be challenged to find fuel for their machinery and fertilizer for their fields, which will likely reduce the total harvest on planted acres. It cannot be underscored enough that Ukrainians are under mortal threat; the situation goes well beyond disruptions to business as usual for Ukraine’s farmers. Predicting what and how much

will be planted by farmers living in daily fear for their lives feels insensitive, but a deeper understanding of Ukraine’s top export crops can help explain the extreme market volatility of the last several weeks and potential risks to the larger world.

For further AFBF analysis on this topic, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/afbf-ukraine>

BUDGET

From Page 1

tive programs for agriculture – including a refundable overtime time tax credit.

Progress on the state budget thus far is credited in large part to New York Farm Bureau members who participated in New York Farm Bureau’s virtual lobby day meeting in early March with legislators from Upstate, Long Island and New York City. These meetings allowed farmers to highlight the importance of state spending to their farms and businesses and discuss agriculture’s role in New York’s economy.

The final state budget for the coming state fiscal year must be finalized by April 1 and New York Farm Bureau will continue to work with the Governor and legislators to ensure a favorable final budget outcome. News on the final budget will be reported in the May issue of Grassroots.

ROADS

From Page 2

state’s commitment. State investment in local transportation infrastructure is a fundamental responsibility and critical to the strength and success of local communities, economies, environments, governments, and taxpayers.”

The coalition notes that for the past ten years, largely through a series of “Extreme Winter Recovery” (EWR) allocations distributed through the state’s Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding formula, and together with the PAVE-NY and BRIDGE-NY programs established in 2016, important increased state support has been provided for New York’s counties, cities, towns, and villages.

In her 2022-2023 Executive budget, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced a \$32.8 billion, five-year DOT Capital Plan. The proposed Executive Bud-

get holds baseline funding for CHIPS, EWR, and PAVE-NY at current year levels. The governor’s plan increases BRIDGE-NY funding by \$100 million and creates a new “Operation Pave Our Potholes” (POP) program that will provide an additional \$100 million in 2022-2023.

While welcoming the governor’s commitment to infrastructure investment in the new state budget, the Local Roads Are Essential advocates are calling on New York to strengthen its commitment to local transportation beyond Hochul’s proposals by the following four actions:

- Increasing the base funding level for the CHIPS program by \$250 million to a total of \$788 million;
- Increasing EWR funding by \$50 million to \$150 million;
- Distributing the \$100 million proposed for the new “Pave Our Potholes” program utilizing the existing CHIPS/EWR aid formula to ensure equity and fairness; and
- Increasing the five-year, DOT

Capital Plan to \$44.1 billion, an \$11.3-billion increase.

The coalition wrote a letter to Gov. Hochul as well addressing the importance of the funding and the greater costs to the state and its drivers if nothing is done.

New York Farm Bureau has long been a partner in this effort. Renee St. Jacques, New York Farm Bureau Associate Director of Public Policy, spoke at the capitol press conference in favor of the increased funding to support New York’s farmers.

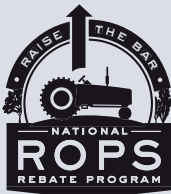
“There has been renewed attention on strengthening the supply chain and that includes ensuring New York State has a strong infrastructure in place to transport goods to market in an efficient manner. Our farms also rely on safe roads and bridges to move farm equipment between fields to produce the food we need. New York Farm Bureau supports increasing the investment into the CHIPS program to benefit communities across the state,” she said.



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HPAI

From Page 1

To help New York farmers and those with back yard flocks be better informed and understand the risks, Long Island Farm Bureau worked with Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension on a special webinar last month that brought experts together to share information and answer questions.

They stressed that this is an extremely important issue with multiple ramifications for not only the farm and the animals' health but the industry as a whole as well as the food supply.

"And that has trade implications. And because of that, it's an animal disease. But it's also economics disease. So about 20 percent of US poultry products are exported," said Dr. Eireann Collins, NYS Department of Ag & Markets. "We are very fortunate because we have such a great Ag industry that food security is not always on our minds when we want to ensure that people understand that culture and poultry products continue to be a safe, wholesome, and very affordable protein source for our consumers."

When there was an outbreak in 2015, the industry took a huge economic hit. Collins said 50 million birds were impacted with nearly a billion dollars committed to the response. That doesn't count the lost revenue in sales to the farms. It also took years for the international trade

to normalize as well.

All of this is why farms should be on the lookout for the disease.

"So we want to eradicate this disease to prevent it from affecting additional birds and help our producers that are affected get back into business," she said.

The webinar highlighted hot it's typically carried by wild migratory waterfowl that come in through their migration patterns and contaminate the environment. HPAI affects the gastrointestinal track rather than being a respiratory illness.

"So a gram of manure, which is about the head of a dime, has enough virus in it to infect over a million chickens," said Dr. Collins.

It especially active in cold, damp weather, like we are currently experiencing. Hotter, dry months make the virus more difficult to survive.

She also described what to look for in the birds.

"Well, first and foremost, sudden death without clinical signs. Again, this is a highly contagious, highly deadly disease for poultry. For birds. Additional signs, maybe lack of energy, lack of appetite. You could see a decrease in egg production or misshapen to eggs. May see swelling or discoloration of the comb, of the eyelids, the legs, the bottles. It could be mild, that could be severe. You may see respiratory signs, could have nasal discharge, coughing, that goes to dehydration. And very commonly we will see diarrhea. It is extremely important that you report it to our department," she said.

Reporting it will trigger testing.

"... a gram of manure, which is about the head of a dime, has enough virus in it to infect over a million chickens."

Dr. Eireann Collins

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Confirmation would be the termination of the flock to avoid it spreading any further. Reporting also can help the farm recover costs as well.

"Your case manager will work with you to inventory your poultry and guide you through the next steps, including plans for depopulation. It's important that you do not start populating your flock before you would have received approval from the USDA. And all the indemnity forums are assigned. If you do begin the population prior to USDA approval, you risk not getting the full indemnity for your birds," said Dr. Joy Bennet, the NYS Veterinarian with NYSDAM.

The webinar also stressed the importance of having a biosecurity plan for your birds.

Gavin Michener is a veterinary anatomic pathologist at the Cornell Research Lab. He said if birds are running around out in the open, it is very challenging to limit exposure or disease because it is hard to know what or who the birds come into contact with. He advises a separate perimeter buffer between the birds and other wild birds, rodents, equipment, and people. He says the biggest enemy though is wild fowl, controlling contact to its feces and

feathers is critical.

"What is important is that you have an idea of how you're going to approach your facility and how you're going to approach moving in and out any products that are going to go in and out of that facility. It could be a chicken coop. Could be a chicken coop with a run, could be all the way up to a 10 thousand bird house or 50,000 bird house. The system is essentially the same and the procedures that you will follow will help assist in prevention," he added.

He also advises to monitor trends in the larger bird populations, looking for anything unusual or spokes in mortality. Your vert or the USDA or NYSDAM should be contacted immediately.

"I strongly encourage everyone to act fast, especially with avian influenza, this disease occurs very rapid and can overwhelm populations very, very quickly," he said.

You can view the webinar in its entirety which includes much more information as well as a question-and-answer session. New York Farm Bureau's website, nyfb.org, has posted the link under the "Animals" resource page. It was also emailed in the Wednesday NYFB's news alerts.

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PRIORITIES

From Page 1

advocating for legislation that would address both short- and long-term labor needs, including allowing current, trained workers who are already in this country to stay and work. We also would like to modernize the H-2A federal guest worker program to have a continuous, legal workforce for all sectors of agriculture. Currently, only farms with seasonal work can use the federal program. H-2A does not permit year-round work that is needed on dairy farms, for example, that milk cows 12-months out of the year.

Dairy Pricing

Making sure dairy farmers receive a fair price for their milk is another priority issue for New York Farm Bureau. Prices have rebounded somewhat this year after years of extremely low prices that have driven hundreds of New York dairies out of business. Though inflation and higher input costs on farms have tempered some of the recent price gains.

President Fisher has been a part of a national workgroup with the American Farm Bureau Federation that is taking a deep look at this issue. In turn, New York Farm Bureau is asking the USDA to examine and modernize the current Federal Milk Marketing Order System that determines what dairy farmers receive for their milk based on what is currently a complicated and outdated formula. One avenue to do this is Sen. Gillibrand's dairy pricing bill which would take a new look at Class 1 pricing for fluid milk and would also hold hearings to get feedback directly from farmers on how to update the system.

Supply Chain Issues

The food supply chain has taken a hit throughout the pandemic. It has hurt farmers in two main ways. The first was seeing their products held up getting to their customers, when elements of the manufacturing and transportation links broke down. Farmers have also had problems getting ahold of equipment, parts, and inputs, like fertilizer that they need to farm. This has created delays and driven up prices.

New York Farm Bureau wants to implement a process that will identify these problems and put regulatory and administration actions in place to deal with the issues. This includes decreasing congestion in U.S. ports, reducing barriers to working in the field of food processing or transportation, and continuing to improve the country's infrastructure. This also includes expanding

food processing capacity in this state and country

Just last week, USDA announced \$215 million in grants and other support to expand meat and poultry processing options; this includes for new processing facilities. Here in New York, there are limited options to process livestock. The grants would support small meat processing plants and increase federal inspections to expand capacity. The grants that New York Farm Bureau supports would also provide workforce development and job training to recruit new employees.

There is also a bill in Congress which would reform ocean shipping, which would in part, ensure empty cargo containers are not leaving our ports empty, but rather have agricultural goods bound for other countries. By having proactive trade policies in this country, it will help develop new markets for our farmers.

Climate Smart Farming

Another important priority for New York Farm Bureau members is implementing science-based environmental policies and addressing the effects of climate change. New York farmers know all too well the impacts of extreme weather conditions, having dealt with drought and heavy rain events in recent years. It is important for farmers to have a seat at the table when discussing policy changes around this important issue as well as getting recognition and support for practices already happening on our farms that are reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Farms are part of the solution to addressing climate change.

New York Farm Bureau supports a voluntary, market-based approach which offers incentives and technical assistance to farmers. This approach has been successful in the past, and we believe it would only increase carbon sequestration and climate-smart conservation practices. For example, the USDA is committing \$1 billion dollars to its climate smart farming program. This opens up funding that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and our land-grant university, Cornell, can apply for and distribute to farmers in the state. New York Farm Bureau is hoping to see this assistance flow soon.

"Farmers have made large strides in environmental stewardship. Since 1990, farmers have cut greenhouse gas emissions required to produce the amount of food we make by 24%. And with new technology and better science and research, we are looking to make even bigger gains," Said Lauren Williams, New York Farm Bureau's National Affairs Director.

Regulatory Reform

Regulatory reform remains a priority as well. New York Farm Bureau is closely following a proposed change to the Clean Water Act and what are considered "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) Previously, the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers attempted to take out the word "navigable" which would greatly expand the WOTUS definition to include low areas of a farm field that may only be wet after a heavy rainstorm, ephemeral streams, and roadside ditches. This would be very subjective for federal regulators and open up farms to needing costly permits and delays just to farm their land.

New York Farm Bureau submitted comments last month to the EPA and is asking it to keep the Navigable Waters Protection Rule in place. This provides certainty for farms and ensures federal agencies are following the Clean Water Act as Congress intended to protect this country's waterways.

New York Farm Bureau also wants the USDA to effectively enforce its organic certification standards for livestock. We have seen issues here in New York State of organic dairies losing markets to much large farms out of state. It is important that every farm follow the rules and regulations in place for housing and caring for livestock on organic farms. This includes how cows are transitioned into the operation. New York Farm Bureau is asking the USDA to finalize its organic origin of livestock rule and expedite the rulemaking process.

Rural and Mental Health

Finally, New York Farm Bureau is prioritizing the increased awareness of mental health resources and encourage broader availability of agriculture-specific assistance. The past few years have been challenging for everyone, including farmers and farmworkers. COVID illnesses and deaths, supply chain problems, and economic uncertainty created a more stressful time, and we must ensure that there are enough resources in place to help our farmers and rural communities cope. New York State is fortunate to have organizations like NY FarmNet, New York State Agricultural Mediation Program, and the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health that offer critical services, but we can always do more, especially in time of need.

It was announced last month that USDA is providing half-a-million dollars in grant funding to NY FarmNet and AG Mediation to address this very issue, helping to connect farm families with needed stress assistance programs. New York Farm Bureau is supportive of this effort.



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