

## SECTION 1: AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

### AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

#### POLICIES

1. We support the agricultural assessment program.
2. ~~We recommend the governor create a short term council composed of stakeholders from all agricultural sectors to make revisions to the methodology for agricultural assessments to better reflect the economic value of New York farmland. This council should consist of representatives from New York Farm Bureau, academia, the financial services industry, state government and other relevant experts.~~ **OUTDATED**
3. ~~We recommend that the agricultural assessment methodology be revised to recognize that agricultural lands do not require the same level of services as residential property.~~ **OUTDATED**
4. We believe that the final agricultural use values should be publicly released at least 90 days in advance of the deadline for signing up for agricultural assessment.
5. ~~We are opposed to stiffer penalties upon conversion of land receiving an agricultural assessment.~~ **SEE #29 SAME SECTION**
6. ~~We support the elimination of conversion penalties for farmers who temporarily convert land from production.~~ **TOO BROAD**
7. We recommend that applications for agricultural assessment be mailed at least 60 days prior to taxable status date.
8. We recommend that the 50-acre per parcel limit for owned woodland be removed and the assessment be based on the total number of woodland acres.
  - a. We support increasing the amount of gross agricultural sales from wood products from \$2,000 to \$10,000.
  - b. We support treating rented land the same as owned land for woodlots with regards to an agricultural assessment.
9. We recommend owners of vacant and agricultural land be entitled to challenge their property assessment through Small Claims Assessment Review as an alternative to commencing an action in the State Supreme Court.
10. ~~We support a complete exemption of all parcels of farmland within an agricultural district from any type of special district tax, including a flat tax, except for farmland that directly benefits from the services of the special district. Until a complete exemption from special taxes is obtained, all taxing jurisdictions should be mandated to use agricultural assessment values.~~ **SEE #23 SAME SECTION**
11. We support a change in the language of the Agriculture Assessment Law from “Agriculture Exemption” to “Agriculture Use Assessment.”
12. We support creating an assessment code through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for conservation practices (i.e., buffers, filter strips and riparian areas) that are installed for water quality to provide opportunities for landowners to help protect water quality through a self-certification process in accordance with specific standards outlined by Good Agricultural Practices through USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services.
13. We support counting rented land in calculating the minimum acreage requirement for agricultural assessment eligibility.

14. ~~We recommend that assessments on agricultural land, when development rights are removed or have conservation easements, be limited to the agricultural value of that land.~~  
**ACCOMPLISHED**
15. We support legislation that would allow, with proper reporting, products grown or raised and consumed on a farm to be included in the calculation of farm income for the purpose of agricultural assessment eligibility.
16. We are opposed to vacant land being assessed at the highest and best use.
17. We recommend that the following agricultural uses be included in agricultural assessments:
  - a. ~~Heifer boarding;~~
  - b. Game birds;
  - c. Lands for on-farm processing and/or retail merchandising;
  - d. Land used for certified agricultural research;
  - e. ~~Woods used for shiitake mushroom cultivation; and~~
  - f. ~~Woods used for silvopasturing livestock.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED A, E and F**
18. ~~We support agricultural assessment on all acreage used by any farm operation exceeding \$5,000 in annual sales.~~ **SEE #30 SAME SECTION**
19. We support moving the agricultural assessment program from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.
20. We support creation of an Agricultural Assessment Specialist position within the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. We further support additional training programs be mandated to local assessors for agricultural assessments and property valuation.
21. We support allowing the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets defined beginning farmers who purchase land for farming purposes being eligible to receive an agriculture assessment their first year of farming, even if they don't earn the required ~~\$10,000~~ **MINIMUM** gross income to be eligible, as defined on a Schedule F tax form, but those farms should be required to pay back those first year tax savings if they do not reach the ~~\$10,000~~ **MINIMUM** gross income threshold in year two of operation.
  - a. We support amending the agricultural assessment program to allow landowners who have formerly qualified for the program and are now retired to continue to receive the assessment without having to meet the **MINIMUM** ~~\$10,000~~ gross income threshold so long as the property continues to remain in agricultural production. **CHANGES MADE TO "MINIMUM" IN THE FUTURE EVENT THAT GROSS INCOME THRESHOLD IS CHANGED.**
22. We support that the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance should make recommendations to local assessors as to the depreciation schedule and valuing of greenhouses for assessment purposes after the ten-year real property tax exemption expires.
23. We support mandating that fire, rescue, library and other ad valorem taxing districts use agricultural assessment values when calculating property taxes.
24. We support the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance modifying the current Agriculture Renewal Exemption Form to a fill-in online form and modify the Five-Year Lease Agreement to allow the farmer to renew the agricultural exemption. The paper forms would still be available.

25. ~~We support the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance increasing the number of education hours required by assessors for farm valuation.~~ **SEE #20 SAME SECTION**
26. We support the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance posting agricultural sale of properties online using Systems Development Group Farm Sales information to be more comprehensive and accessible to farmers.
27. ~~We support amending the agricultural assessment program to allow landowners who have formerly qualified for the program and are now retired to continue to receive the assessment without having to meet the \$10,000 gross income threshold so long as the property continues to remain in agricultural production.~~ **MOVED TO #21A IN THIS SECTION.**
28. We urge the New York State Legislature to amend the Agricultural Markets Law, in relation to authorizing the assessor to extend the filing deadline of a renewal application for an agricultural assessment after taxable status date when good cause is shown for the failure to file the application by such date.
29. ~~We oppose any changes to the conversion penalties for changing agricultural production lands to other uses.~~ **SEE #6 SAME SECTION**
30. ~~We support the reduction of the income threshold for the agricultural assessment be reduced to \$5,000 regardless of acreage.~~ **SEE #18 SAME SECTION**

## **AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY**

### **POLICIES**

#### **We Support:**

1. ~~We support~~ Farmers being allowed to use federally approved genetically modified products and available new related technologies, so New York farmers are not operating at a competitive disadvantage.
2. ~~We support~~ The usage of agricultural biotechnology to improve crop varieties, enhance nutritional quality, and reduce pesticide applications. Regulations for biotechnology products are more appropriately done at the federal level, so that all farmers and research institutions are subject to the same guidelines. Furthermore, we support additional research and testing at the state and federal levels of genetically modified products and development of new crop varieties.
3. ~~We support~~ Educational outreach to consumers on the benefits and risks of agricultural biotechnology, and an increased awareness campaign to dispel misinformation on such products.
4. ~~We support~~ Legislation that would prohibit GMO seed manufacturers or companies from suing farmers for patent infringement when GMO plants in a farmer's fields do not originate from that farmer planting GMO seeds or plants.
5. ~~We support~~ The establishment of a Plant Innovation Center and High Throughput Phenotyping capacity at Cornell University, designed to streamline traditional and precision breeding technologies to better deploy new plant varieties to meet changing consumer preferences, nutrition, and climate conditions in New York.
6. ~~We support~~ That industry and university-generated studies on biotechnology-derived crops be made more easily available to the public and the agricultural community in order to promote education and awareness.

7. ~~We recommend~~ That biotech seed labeling requirements for New York State should not be different from federal labeling requirements, as long as all seeds continue to be labeled.
  - A. We are opposed to mandatory labeling of genetically modified products TO CONSUMERS, except seed sold for planting. **MOVED FROM #9 SAME SECTION**
  - B. We support clear labeling of “GMO” on seed packets sold to vegetable and casual growers. **MOVED FROM #10 SAME SECTION**

**We oppose:**

1. ~~We oppose~~ Any moratorium or ban on genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
2. ~~We are opposed to mandatory labeling of genetically modified products except seed sold for planting.~~ **MOVE TO NEW #7A ABOVE**
3. ~~We support clear labeling of “GMO” on seed packets sold to vegetable and casual growers.~~ **MOVE TO NEW #7B ABOVE**
4. ~~We oppose~~ Individual localities establishing policies on agricultural biotechnology labeling.
5. ~~We oppose~~ Legislation that would require any state agency or commission to study whether crops grown through the use of biotechnology are safe to grow or negatively impact wildlife or human health.

**AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS LAW**

The Agricultural Districts Law provides a means, through farmer initiative, to deter activities that threaten agriculture. The law has numerous provisions intended to encourage the continuation of farming in the state. New York Farm Bureau strongly supports the Agricultural Districts Law and will continue to work to strengthen its role in maintaining a viable agricultural industry in the Empire State.

**POLICIES:**

1. ~~We recommend that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets receive adequate funding in order to enforce the provisions of the Agricultural Districts Law.~~ **MOVED & ADDED TO #3(D) IN THIS SECTION**
2. ~~We recommend that state agencies rewrite their regulations to be supportive of the purpose of the Agricultural Districts Law.~~ **COVERED IN #3**
3. We support strengthening the Notice of Intent procedures that would:
  - a. Give the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets the right to demand mitigation and/or alternatives to public and private projects in an agricultural district. Mitigation and alternatives should protect the viability of remaining agricultural operations.
  - b. Require the filing of a Notice of Intent if there is a proposed change in the land use of publicly owned land in, or adjacent to, an agricultural district; and
  - c. Include all land subject to agricultural assessment.
  - d. Funding for Ag. and Markets to enforce the Agricultural District Law. **NEW (PULLED FROM POLICY #1)**
4. ~~We support an amendment to the Agricultural Districts Law to require private corporations, as well as public entities, to seek alternatives in the siting of specific project~~

~~components subject to Notice of Intent provisions.~~ **COVERED IN #3A OF THIS SECTION**

5. We support the concept of the landowners' waiver provision in the Notice of Intent procedures.
6. We support legislation that would more specifically define the term "emergency" as it relates to overriding provisions of the Agricultural Districts Law.
7. We recommend that the County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board review proposed changes to any zoning ordinance, comprehensive plan or site plan, and review any new local laws that include agricultural district land.
8. We support the addition of accessory uses **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AGRITOURISM, VERTICAL FARMING, CANNABIS, ETC.** to the definition of agriculture in the Agricultural Districts Law. ~~These accessory uses cannot compromise the district's integrity and are subsidiary in nature. Local site review authority shall not be compromised.~~ **DELETED LAST SENTENCE BECAUSE IT IS JUST AN EXPLANATION.**
9. ~~We oppose the requirements of special use permits for equine operations.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED/HORSE BOARDING AS AG. DEFINITION**
10. We support enforcement and increased penalties to the seller and/or realtor for failure of disclosure of property in an agricultural district or within 500 feet of an agricultural district on **AGRICULTURAL DATA STATEMENT**. ~~Form DOS-1614 or other appropriate document.~~ **COMBINED LAST SENTENCE WITH #13 & #15 OF THIS SECTION**
11. ~~We recommend that agricultural property located within an agricultural district remain within that district until the landowner actively requests the removal of the property, or it is permanently converted out of agricultural use, during a review period.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED.**
12. We support **STATE AND LOCAL "RIGHT TO FARM" LAWS** maintaining the Right to Farm Laws and Agricultural Districts Laws. ~~currently in effect at the state level and oppose local and county governments developing policies more restrictive than state guidelines.~~ **REMOVE LAST SENTENCE BECAUSE THAT IS THE DEFINITION OF RIGHT TO FARM LAWS; REPETITIVE**
13. ~~We recommend that the Agriculture Data Statement in Section 310 of the Agriculture and Markets Law should also apply to sales within 500 feet of an agricultural district as well as in an agricultural district and adjacent to an agricultural district.~~ **SEE #10 IN THIS SECTION**
14. We recommend the definition of a farm market and farm stand allow the ability to expand and/or change marketing efforts and/or strategies without regulation by an individual municipality.
15. ~~We support enabling the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to implement a review policy and an enforcement mechanism, i.e. a penalty, by the department, in regard to the required "Agricultural Data Statement."~~ **SEE #10 IN THIS SECTION**
16. ~~We support an amendment to change the Agriculture and Markets Law definition of livestock to include purpose-bred animals raised for research, service animals, honey bees, working dogs or any working animals in service on a farm.~~ **MOVE TO #12 IN AG & MARKETS GENERAL SECTION**

17. We recommend that for the sole purpose of determining a sound agriculture practice option, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets may use agriculture practices supported by land-grant universities as a guide.
18. ~~We support that the on-farm manufacturing of biofuels should be considered a part of the farming operation.~~ **MOVE TO AG & MARKETS GENERAL**
19. We favor a loss of state aid for towns and municipalities that violate the State's Agricultural Districts Law.
20. ~~We support amending the definitions of farm operations within Agricultural Districts Law to include many forms of agritourism.~~ **SEE #8**
21. ~~We support that counties considering an annual addition of land to an existing agricultural district should be required to notify the landowner by direct mail about public hearings on the issue.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED**
22. We support any efforts from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Agricultural Mediation Program and NY FarmNet to be more proactive in educating town officials, police departments, farmers and non-farm residents of agricultural communities about agricultural practices, Agricultural Districts Law, Agriculture and Markets Law and Right to Farm Law to help prevent and mediate neighbor disputes.
23. We support the conversion of a structure designed, constructed or used for human habitation to an agricultural building if said structure is within an agricultural district. Such conversion may require a permit from local code enforcement but shall require no inspection.
24. We oppose the requirement of any asbestos survey being required by Code Rule (56) on any property located within an agricultural district if said renovation or demolition is performed by the property owner. **RECOMMEND DELETION**
25. ~~We support municipalities adopting a local Right to Farm Law.~~ **SEE #12 IN THIS SECTION**

## **AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND PROMOTION**

New York State's agriculture industry has the potential for vast economic growth if it takes advantage of the numerous available marketing opportunities. Product marketing and promotion are key concepts to obtaining this goal. Public and private sector programs should aggressively meet the challenge of making New York agricultural branded products the premier of choice among consumers.

### **POLICIES:**

1. We support a comprehensive effort by the State of New York, which will invest in programs to increase consumer demand for New York agricultural products. Specifically, we support:
  - a. ~~Adequate funding for significant programs which will promote quality New York agricultural produce and products~~ **AT REGIONAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.** **CONDENSED #1(A) AND (B)**
  - b. ~~Adequate funding for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to actively promote New York agricultural products at regional, national and international levels;~~ **SEE 1(a)**



- c. Continued funding of FOR marketing, operations, PROMOTION and improvements for regional farm market facilities;
  - d. Promotion of agricultural tourism and agricultural education to the general public;
  - e. ~~Development of a matching funds program through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for regional marketing of agricultural products;~~ SEE LETTER #1(C)
  - f. Use of matching industry funds for market research;
  - g. Working with farmers to establish “niche” markets for farm processed products;
  - h. Using the New York State Trade Office in Israel to promote New York State farm products;
  - i. That farm stands, CSA’S, AND FARM MARKETS be allowed and encouraged to accept ANY GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SUCH AS SNAP, EBT, WIC, ETC. ~~New York State Department of Health WIC fruit and vegetable checks, as well as eWIC cards;~~ CONDENSED OTHER SUBSECTIONS INTO THIS POLICY #1(I)
  - j. ~~Continued promotion of farmers markets; and~~ SEE #1(C)
  - k. ~~Use of eWIC cards at farmers markets, farm stands and other farm retail outlets.~~ SEE #1(I)
  - l. ~~We support the opportunity for all farms to qualify to accept vouchers or market checks without undue hardships.~~ SEE #1(I)
  - m. ~~We encourage New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to provide assistance in the application process for small-scale food retailers and on-farm sales to implement food voucher and check programs.~~ SEE#1(i)
  - n. ~~We support that SNAP EBT cards should be able to be used at farm markets/stands, as well as farmers markets~~ ACCOMPLISHED
  - o. We support an incentive program for food manufacturers to buy New York-grown products. MOVED FROM POLICY #45 IN THIS SECTION
2. We recommend that New York agricultural colleges and Cornell Cooperative Extension place a greater priority on marketing and applied research.
  3. We support the New York Farm Viability Institute, which involves public funding with farmer and industry contribution, to provide agricultural and product marketing research through an industry-driven, needs-based system.
  4. We believe that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets should support the New York fruit and vegetable industry by promoting the discussion of competitive pricing mechanisms between grower groups in the state and independent processors.
  5. ~~We support efforts to continue to improve the business environment in New York to allow agribusinesses to be competitive with similar businesses in both domestic and global markets.~~ TOO VAGUE/NOT A POLICY
  6. We support commodity promotion “check-off” programs if growers support them through a referendum.
  7. We encourage the New York State Department of Economic Development and the Industrial Development Agencies to prioritize agriculture and agribusiness within their funding programs. ~~We further recommend that at least 10% of state funding allocated to the Empire State Development Corporation and Industrial Development Agencies be directed to support agricultural projects including production, processing and research.~~

**DON'T WANT TO PUT A CAP ON FUNDING AND LIMITED TO CERTAIN PROJECTS (I.E. PROCESSING, RESEARCH, ETC.)**

8. We recommend legislation which requires that when goods are advertised as locally grown, the specific geographic origin must also be accurately labeled.
9. We support the use of Integrated Pest Management as a production ~~marketing~~ tool, but not as a marketing tool. **SENTENCE CLARITY**
10. We support the strong enforcement of antitrust laws.
11. We recommend that all state institutions, agencies and New York consumers buy New York products first and foremost.
12. We support a statewide marketing campaign highlighting the health and environmental benefits of New York agricultural products.
13. We support markets and infrastructures that enable farms to thrive in New York State.
14. ~~We recommend additional funding under the Grow New York program for farmers and food retailers to develop new marketing opportunities and to help promote the local economy.~~ **SEE #1A**
15. We recommend an agritourism program that will provide farmers with capital to develop new marketing opportunities.
16. ~~We recommend that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets encourage the Thruway Authority to specify the use of New York State farm products on the Thruway markets in the bidding process for their vendors.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED**
17. We support education of the public on Agricultural Best Management Practices.
18. We support the continuation of the Meat Lab at Cobleskill College as an economic initiative, and not just for educational purposes.
19. We support extension of the Long Island Market Authority to better facilitate marketing of Long Island products.
20. ~~We recommend that the New York State Food Bank explore a system under which they spend their annual allotment for produce and milk on New York grown produce and products.~~ **NOURISH N.Y.-ACCOMPLISHED**
21. We support efforts to support and/or create new outlets for New York-grown fruits, vegetables, and dairy products in underserved and lower income areas of the state.
22. We support state funding for incentive programs that encourage local food purchases including farmers markets, farm stands, roadside farm markets and other local vendors.
23. We support the creation and development of marketing trails, such as the Finger Lakes Cheese Trail.
24. We recommend that seasonal farm markets should be allowed to be part of the signage on interstate exits along with restaurants and gas stations and other tourist attractions.
25. ~~We believe that organic food should be eligible for all WIC and similar government food assistance programs.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED (ALSO SEE #1(I))**
26. We support the development of food hubs for New York agricultural products. ~~as a part of an expanded economic development initiative for the farm community.~~ **LAST PART IS TOO SPECIFIC.**
27. We recommend support for the Hunts Point Terminal Marketplace in New York City, and that all parties work together to improve the market to suit all involved.
28. We support the development of uniform statewide standards and fee structures for food sampling at farmers markets and farm stands and that they be administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.



29. We support the New York State Department of Health having uniform statewide standards and non-restrictive fee structure for ready-to-eat foods at farmers markets.
30. ~~We recommend kiosks and farmers markets be put in every Thruway service area that would display the agriculture of that region, similar to existing history kiosks. Interactive kiosks that teach agriculture could also be added.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED**
31. ~~We recommend the continued regulation of farm stands and roadside produce stands by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and not by the FDA.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED**
32. ~~We encourage development of local agricultural product hubs should have as the focus promotion of a wholesale market. We encourage the development of a wholesale hub within each economic development region.~~ **SEE #26**
33. ~~We recommend that the New York State Department of Transportation logo signs be available for use by all commodities.~~ **SEE #24**
34. We recommend that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets should require that a portion of any “buy local” funds they distribute be used to promote horticultural as well as other agricultural products.
35. ~~We support a corn check-off task force in New York State to pursue opportunities, challenges and options for a corn market order in New York.~~ **SEE #6**
36. We support the continuation of state funding for corn production research until a state corn check-off can be established.
37. We support giving off-farm retail locations (farm stands not adjacent/connected to the current productive farm property) all of the protections/benefits that farm properties receive if at least 51% of the products are produced/processed on a farm associated with the retail area.
38. We support the “Home Grown by Heroes” logo for qualified producers.
39. We recommend that New York State agencies revamp and clarify current marketing programs for products grown and produced in New York State so that all products are included.
40. ~~We support community supported agriculture being eligible for state assistance for equipment costs associated with electronic benefit transfer technology.~~ **SEE #1(I)**
41. ~~We strongly request that ALL products containing the word meat must be derived from an animal.~~ **SENTENCE CLARITY**
42. We support requiring companies that receive state grants for the purpose of expanding or updating an agricultural processing plant to use a minimum of 25% of New York State agricultural products when available.
43. We strongly support the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the USDA working together to generate more specific information/requirements for farm processed foods.
44. We support the creation of a farm-to-institute program to support farm-to-table programs.
45. ~~We support an incentive program for food manufacturers to buy New York grown products.~~ **MOVED TO POLICY #1(O)**
46. We support state funding for Adirondack Harvest.
47. ~~We support allowing food trucks that serve some New York agricultural products at agricultural operations as a form of agritourism to further promote and enhance farming activities.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED**

48. ~~We support state funding to assist farmers in the purchase of EBT/SNAP terminals for use at farmers markets.~~ **SEE #1(i)**
49. ~~We support a state program to assist farmers in the harvesting and transportation of excess produce that is to be donated to food banks or food pantries.~~ **NOURISH N.Y.**

## **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

~~By performing Research in areas like innovative marketing strategies and new product development, New York State's educational institutions are providing farmers with information on ways to enhance their income. These efforts also ensure consumers high quality, affordable food. To make this information viable, monies are needed to fund innovative research projects and to implement research findings.~~ **WANT TO MAKE PREAMBLE MORE BROAD.**

### **POLICIES:**

1. We support merit-based state grants and other appropriations to private industry and agricultural colleges for food product development and marketing of agricultural products. Efforts should be made to provide the necessary research base to expand the agricultural industry in New York.
2. We **SUPPORT** ~~recommend that New York State maintain~~ funding for research at Cornell University's Land Grant Colleges, Experiment Stations, Agritech Park, and Cooperative Extension Service, in order to accelerate the development of new "tools" for agricultural production and alternative farm products **AND USES. SENTENCE CLARITY**
3. We **SUPPORT** ~~recommend adequate state~~ funding for research and development of the following areas:
  - a. Integrated Pest Management, as a management tool, including aerial application;
  - b. Non-chemical alternatives for pest control;
  - c. Manure management systems and odor control;
  - d. Eradication of the alfalfa snout beetle and golden nematode;
  - e. The value and opportunities in using modern techniques in food preservation, handling and marketing to keep pace with other global markets;
  - f. Agricultural techniques to meet the requirements of unique geographical conditions;
  - g. Applied research for agricultural environmental management;
  - h. Solutions for the ~~Gypsy~~ **SPONGY/GYPSY** Moth and Tent caterpillar's defoliation problem; **PROPER TERMINOLOGY**
  - i. Applied research for corn and soybean variety trials; and
  - j. Applied research for science-based organic production.
4. We support the efforts of agricultural organizations, Cornell University, and various commodity groups to seek innovative private funding mechanisms to extend and expand much needed applied research and extension work.
5. We ~~recommend~~ **SUPPORT** that New York State offer a two-for-one matching grant to agricultural commodity groups for funding agricultural research at Cornell University.
6. ~~We recommend that research and market development continue on alternative uses of agricultural products.~~ **SEE #2 IN THIS SECTION**
7. We support the development of mandatory seed quality standards for New York State as established by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva.

8. ~~We encourage Cornell University and New York State agricultural and technological colleges to develop and distribute information on more ways to recycle agricultural waste materials.~~ **SEE #2 IN THIS SECTION**
9. We support the continuation and improvement of the livestock programs, including but not limited to meat processing programs, and facilities at state agricultural colleges.
10. We support funding for the Northern New York Agricultural Development program.
11. We support state budget funding for the Highland Apple Research Lab in Ulster County.
12. We support funding for a Plant Innovation and Data Analytics Institute at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
13. We support and recommend staffing of a statewide weed and herbicide management specialist at Cornell University with Cooperative Extension responsibilities for vegetable, fruit and row crop commodities, including corn, soybeans and small grains.
14. We support the development of a dedicated faculty support line for Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to enable additional faculty hiring in the plant sciences, animal sciences, food sciences disciplines and for production agriculture while working with Cornell Cooperative Extension.
15. When seeking an agriculture grant for a business in a qualified economically depressed area, the location of the business being funded should be the basis for qualification, not the address of the home farm or owner business.
16. ~~We support capital funding for Cornell University Arnot Maple Facility upgrades.~~ **ACCOMPLISHED**
17. We support establishing an annual capital allocation to Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, for the specific purpose of maintaining research farm infrastructure and equipment that support the land grant agricultural research mission.
18. We support research and experimentation in vertical farming methods.

### **AGRICULTURAL SAFETY**

#### **POLICIES:**

1. We believe that farm machinery manufacturers, when complying with safety regulations, should design products for ease in serviceability, i.e. guards, protection devices, etc.
2. We believe that any statistical data gathered on injury rates of minors while employed in agriculture should reflect only injuries that occur while performing specifically defined agricultural tasks.
3. We support continued funding of the Rollover Protection Structures Retro-Fit Rebate program on an annual basis.
4. We support continued funding for the John May Safety Fund program on an annual basis.

### **AGRICULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM**

#### **POLICIES:**

1. ~~We support the work of NY FarmNet, a confidential statewide program available to help farm families with decision making and problem resolution through responding to a toll-free 1-800 helpline, providing information, referrals, and individualized consulting.~~ **SEE #2 IN THIS SECTION**

2. We support the efforts of ~~the NY FarmNet Board of Directors~~ in securing a portion of the program's annual operating budget from private sources and support state funding at a level based on demand for program services. **ENCOMPASSES #1**
3. We recommend that New York State establish a fund to assist farmers unable to continue their operations to:
  - a. Support their families while they shut down their farm business and seek out retraining (self-employed persons cannot collect unemployment insurance under state law);
  - b. Pay for retraining into a field where the farmer could expect to retain financial viability.
4. We support NY FarmNet's efforts in business planning to grow the New York State agricultural economy by increasing capital investment, job creation, and new farm business enterprise development.
5. We support state funding to the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program in addition to the currently provided USDA funds.

## **ANIMAL CARE**

~~Laws have been enacted in several countries and a number of states that limit or prohibit the raising of livestock and poultry in certain types of environments.~~ Proper care and welfare of livestock and poultry are essential to the efficient and profitable production of food and fiber. No segment of society has more concern for the well-being of poultry and livestock than the producer. This is best exemplified by the high levels of production and low mortality rates being achieved in modern livestock and poultry operations. **DELETED SECTION IS JUST EXPLANATORY**

## **General Issues**

### **POLICIES:**

1. We believe New York State should support farmers in any type of animal agriculture who are using properly researched and industry-tested poultry and livestock practices.
2. ~~We believe emphasis should be placed on research on animal stress, along with practical ways to implement this research on farms.~~ We support continuing research in appropriate animal rearing practices. **KEEPS POLICY BROAD**
3. We oppose legislation and regulations that would prohibit or unduly restrict the use of animals in research. Research utilizing animals is necessary to ensure more effective human and veterinary medical practices.
4. We recommend guidelines developed for research facilities not be applied to commercial agriculture.
5. We recommend that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets should maintain a current bank of educational material, including videos, to be made available for public education about existing humane treatment of farm animals. Schools should be encouraged to incorporate such materials into their curriculum.
6. While we strongly favor animal welfare, we oppose the concept of "animal rights" and oppose the expenditure of public funds to promote the concept of animal rights.

7. ~~We believe that farm/ranch break-ins and raids on research facilities and businesses should be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowed under state and federal law. Additionally, farmers should be reimbursed for the costs associated with damages incurred during demonstrations, protests, and raids by activists.~~ **SEE POLICY #17**
8. We recommend the removal of animal control officers and local and state humane societies from the eligibility list for peace officer status.
9. We support the humane treatment of all farm animals and companion animals and oppose ~~further~~ legislation that regulates specific animal husbandry and veterinary practices that are not based on sound science. **SENTENCE CLARITY**
10. We support increasing felony penalties for animal fighting.
11. We recommend that the state and federal government monitor the animal rights groups that enjoy a tax-exempt status to ensure that they stay within the guidelines of that status.
12. We recommend that law enforcement authorities be informed of and enforce agricultural laws to protect farms and livestock.
13. ~~We recommend that livestock be allowed to be transported in the back of open trucks as long as the animal is properly tethered or contained to avoid injury.~~ **SEE #16**
14. We recommend that local governments not be granted the authority to make more stringent animal welfare/cruelty laws than existing state laws.
15. We believe that livestock that can no longer be worked by reason of debility should continue to be allowed to be sold.
16. We support that farmers need to be able to decide which method of transporting their livestock is best, which will differ depending on the situation. It should be done in a humane manner as viewed by the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.
17. We believe that law enforcement agencies should actively and strongly pursue any person or persons who attempt to disrupt the operation of any agricultural business, including farms and agricultural research operations. We support compensation to the farmer using the judicial system.
18. All animals that require permits for being transported both intra- and interstate must have proper transport papers when being transported. We encourage stricter enforcement of these laws.
19. We support the state utilizing Department of Homeland Security funding to combat domestic animal agriculture and environmental terrorism in New York State.
20. We recommend that anyone convicted of intentional harassment of any animal in agriculture production, belonging to an agricultural operator, in a manner that causes the animal distress, or inhibits its wellbeing, should be subject to a Class A misdemeanor.
21. We oppose any state regulation or legislation that would ban or restrict the production of foie gras.
22. We believe that individuals should not be granted access to farms or be given any authority to euthanize a non-ambulatory animal at their own discretion.
23. We support the use of individual veal calf stalls and pig gestation crates.
24. We recommend that livestock, including equines, should not be classified as companion animals.
25. We support the use of individual and group livestock containment structures.
26. We support the right of farmers to utilize the techniques of humane tail docking, dehorning, and castration based on established best management practices.

27. ~~We support the use of scientifically researched best management practices, with regard to animal handling and husbandry practices.~~ **SEE #1 IN THIS SECTION**
28. We support a voluntary animal care certification program.
29. We support requiring written permission from a farm operation before any documentation, video or otherwise, be made of the farm operation.
30. We oppose mandatory method of production labeling.
31. We oppose the creation of a state or federal animal abuse registry.
32. The New York State Cattle Health Assurance Program, Quality Milk Promotion Program, Cornell Diagnostic Lab and Johne's Disease Program must CONTINUE TO BE exempt from Freedom of Information Laws. **ALREADY EXEMPT/WANT CONTINUATION OF THIS POLICY**
33. We support the New York Animal Agriculture Coalition and its founding role of responding to attacks on agriculture.
34. We support continued use of fertility treatments in livestock.
35. We recommend that universities who train and educate New York State's future large animal veterinarians be required to teach students the use of captive bolt method in addition to chemical euthanasia.
36. We oppose requiring veterinarian approval prior to moving a downed animal.
37. We support the continued use of rodeo animals based on veterinary-approved sound husbandry practices.