



Grassroots



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THE VOICE OF NEW YORK AGRICULTURE

OCTOBER 2022

Wage Board Report Under Review

Labor Commissioner Reardon has 45 Days to Make Final Decision

By Steve Ammerman
sammerman@nyfb.org

New York's Commissioner of Labor is currently reviewing the Farm Laborers Wage Board Report and its recommendation to lower the farmworker overtime threshold to 40 hours over the next decade, beginning in 2024.

The wage board approved the report in a 2-1 vote during its Sept. 6 virtual meeting. New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher, who is on the board, voted no and delivered a sharp dissent pointing out numerous problems with the report.

As of press time for *Grassroots*,

Commissioner Roberta Reardon has not made a decision but has 45 days to either accept or reject it. This included a 15-day public comment period where NYFB and our agricultural partners in the Grow NY Farms coalition submitted com-

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NEW FOR 2022: NYFB's State Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with a conference that will examine the future of farming. **Page 33**



SPECIAL/KELKENBERG FAMILY



SPECIAL/KELKENBERG FAMILY

Signs of the Season

Fall Festivals are held on autumn weekends at Akron Acres with school tours during the week. The Akron, NY-based agritourism business is owned by Andy and Marilyn Kelkenberg along with their four children. The business has been open since 1990. They offer visitors field trips, hay rides, pumpkin picking and Christmas tree cutting.

Comptroller Report Details Importance of NYS Agriculture

NYS Comptroller's Office

Agriculture in New York state paid close to \$1 billion in wages and produced roughly \$3.3 billion in gross domestic product in 2021, according to a report by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The sector has proved to be among the most resilient during the COVID-19

pandemic, losing just 1% of jobs in 2020 compared to the statewide annual employment loss of 8.7%. Both employment and wages in the farming sector grew in 2021 to reach new highs of 23,868 employees and \$970.2 million in wages.

"Agriculture supports jobs and communities throughout New York," DiNapoli said. "In addition to the

growth in employment and wages in the sector, local farms contributed to the food security in their communities during the COVID pandemic as disrupted supply chains left shelves empty in many places. Agriculture, particularly the family farm, is vital to New York's health and economy.

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Proposed Environmental Bond Act Would Help Farms

But is New York Prepared for Additional Debt?

By Jeff Williams
jwilliams@nyfb.org

As we all know, elected officials are on the ballot on Election Day on Nov. 8. What many might not know is that there is also a vote on a \$4.2 billion Clean Air, Clean Water, and Green Jobs Bond Act for New York.

This bond act measure is the first time since 1996 that New York residents will have an opportunity to decide whether the state should borrow money to address concerns dealing with the environment, climate change, conservation and wildlife protection.

If approved by voters this November, the Bond Act would fund many projects including drinking water infrastructure, municipal wastewater projects, climate change mitigation and open space protection. Included, alongside this spending in the bond act is funding for farmers to address soil health, farm water quality and farmland protection programs.

Pertinent New York Farm Bureau member-driven policy supports Bond Acts, "...as way for New York State to complete existing state farmland protection program grants and to meet existing funding

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NY FARM NET:
is Providing Free Mental
Health First Aid Training
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SPECIAL SECTION: CANDIDATES WEIGH IN ON AGRICULTURE Check out our Voter's Guide Featuring Survey Responses in Key NY Races **Pages 13-20**

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JESSICA MARTIN/NYFB STAFF

Mum’s the Word
Chrysanthemums and other seasonal plants are displayed Savannah Gardens in Savannah, NY (Wayne County).

NYFB Board Candidate Statements Sought

Elections will be held during the 2022 New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting on Dec. 7, 2022. NYFB leadership positions up for election include State Board Directors from Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10, State Board President and State Board Vice President. The positions of State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee chairperson and State Promotion and Education Committee chairperson will be elected at separate business sessions in conjunction with the NYFB State Annual Meeting. Any regular/farmer member who chooses to run for any of these leadership positions is invited to submit a letter of candidacy to be printed in the November issue of Grassroots. The letter will be printed without editing and will be limited to 300 words or less. **All letters must be received in the NYFB Albany office by Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.** Letters should be sent via e-mail to sammerman@nyfb.org or mailed to Steve Ammerman, New York Farm Bureau, 159 Wolf Road, Suite 300, Albany, NY, 12205. A headshot may also be submitted but will only be accepted if a high-resolution digital photograph is e-mailed as a JPEG file.

Official Notice of New York Farm Bureau, Inc. Annual Meeting

The New York Farm Bureau, Inc. (NYFB) Annual Meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo Hotel, Buffalo, New York on Dec. 7, 2022. The voting delegate business session will convene on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022. All Farm Bureau members are invited and encouraged to attend the NYFB Annual Meeting.

CORRECTION

In the September issue of *Grassroots*, *Compliance Corner* (page 8) discussed driving farm trucks during harvest season and reported that farmers may get F (required to operate farm vehicle combinations over 26,000 pounds) and G (required to operate single farm vehicles over 26,000 pounds) endorsements on their Class D licenses. We have since been informed by NYS Department of Motor Vehicles that farmers must have a non-CDL Class C license to obtain an F or G endorsement. We have also been informed that DMV will not be phasing out non-CDL Class C licenses as previously announced.

SWINE
+
BOVINE

Hiya Cow!
What did the
skeleton order
with his beer?

Not today Pig!

A MOP!!!

You are going to go far with
your humor one day. I just
hope you stay there.

by Laura Backaus

Wolters Accepts New Position
as Deputy Commissioner at
Department of Ag and Markets

NYFB’s Deputy Public Policy Director Elizabeth Wolters has recently accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Agriculture and Markets. A devoted advocate for New York agriculture, Elizabeth focused much of her work in her eight years at NYFB in the areas of environment and energy -- two important areas for our members.

NYFB Public Policy Director Jeff Williams said, “I can’t begin to tell you how important Elizabeth’s work with PPD has been for New York Farm Bureau. She has moved the needle for our members in so many ways on climate and dairy policy but has also left her fingerprints on so many issues critical to agriculture during her time at NYFB. It has truly been a privilege to work with her. While Elizabeth is leaving NYFB, we still get to work with her at the Department of Agriculture and Markets. I am confident that she will continue to look out for NYFB and our members in her new role.”



Elizabeth Wolters

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SAVE THE DATES

Dec. 6 - “Focusing on the Future of Farming in the Northeast”
Conference

Dec. 7 - State Annual Meeting

NYFB Staff Receive Training in Mental Health First Aid, Sessions Available to Members this Fall

If a family member or employee fell at your farm and badly twisted their ankle, you'd want to know things you could do to assist them until they could get it X-rayed or they could be seen by the doctor. It is important that we think of mental health challenges in the same way.

On our farms, we notice when an employee that we see every day begins limping or can't pick up a hay bale that they had no trouble lifting the day before. Mental Health First Aid training can help us see signs of mental health challenges in the same way that we notice physical health challenges.

On a recent episode of NYFB's News Bytes podcast, Jennifer Schwytzer a family consultant with NY Farm Net said, "It is a stressful time for farmers all across the board. Certainly the pandemic created issues for farms. High prices. Farming is a hard job to begin with. There's been a lot of dry weather and drought conditions across the state. So there's a lot of things weighing on farmers' shoulders."

When Todd Heyn and Tim Bigham were asked to consider being instructors for mental health first aid it seemed a natural extension of Farm Bureau's leadership development program. While it's outside the normal realm of what's been traditional leadership training, it develops the whole person which we believe in at Farm Bureau.

"There's a lot of times when a mental health challenge affects one part of the farm or one part of the family and to just kind of go forward like it's not that important to the functioning of the whole person is, reckless ... Todd and I really want to part of changing that," Tim said on episode 18 of the NewsBytes podcast.

Mental Health First Aid centers on a five-step model. First aid givers determine which action is appropriate for the person they are aiding based on signs and symptoms they notice and other environmental observations. Those who take this course learn what to look for and how to respond using this model.

This training course was developed in Australia in 2000 and has since been adopted by 25 countries across



Last December, a poll conducted by American Farm Bureau Federation found 61% of farmers and farm workers are experiencing more stress and mental health challenges compared to one year ago.

TO REGISTER:

Go to www.nyfarmnet.org/trainings. If there is not a training scheduled in your area, check back soon, or contact NY FarmNet at 1-800-547-3276 or nyfarmnet@cornell.edu.

the globe. It was brought to the U.S. in 2008.

Todd and Tim are instructors from New York Farm Bureau and were trained as part of a grant that NY FarmNet obtained to expand the scope of instructors in the agricultural community. The grant funded certification of another 14 instructors from other organizations throughout the state. Other instructors include representatives from NY FarmNet, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Young Farmers Coalition, NY Center for Ag Medicine and Health (NYCAMH), and Black Farmers United NYS.

The grant also offsets costs of instruction so that participants can be trained at no cost to themselves.

Training Available at No Cost to NYFB Members

These training courses are also available to NYFB members at no cost through NY FarmNet in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension offices this fall.

Trainings run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and lunch will be provided from a local eatery with a one hour break.

After the course, you will be able to:

MHFA TRAINING SESSIONS:

Scheduled full-day trainings for this fall include:

- Oct. 18 in Hudson/Columbia County
- Oct. 19 in Cortland/Cortland County
- Oct. 21 in Ithaca/Cornell University/Tompkins County
- Oct. 25 in Middletown/Orange County
- Nov. 2 in Binghamton/Broome County
- Nov. 7 in Lockport/Niagara County
- Nov. 8 in Fonda/Montgomery County

Trainings run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and lunch will be provided from a local eatery with a one hour break.

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a person in crisis and connect them with help.
- Use self-care tools and techniques.

These free trainings are made possible by funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. They have invested nearly \$25 million in addressing farmer behavioral health on a state-by-state basis as part of the Farm and Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) through state Departments of Agriculture.

NYFB Staff Reports and NY Farm-Net



NYFB's News Bytes podcast comes out every Thursday and can be found on all major podcast platforms, like Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Albany	Oct. 19
Allegany	Oct. 12
Broome	Oct. 21
Cattaraugus	Oct. 19
Cayuga	Oct. 12
Chautauqua	Oct. 27
Chemung	Oct. 18
Chenango	Oct. 26
Clinton	Oct. 13
Columbia	TBA
Cortland	Oct. 17
Delaware	Oct. 3
DPW	TBA
Erie	Oct. 20
Essex	Oct. 11
Franklin	Oct. 15
Fulton	Oct 20
Genesee	Oct. 11
Greene	Oct. 3
Herkimer	TBA
Jefferson	Oct. 12
Lewis	Oct. 27
Livingston	Oct. 26
Long Island	Oct 24
Madison	Oct.16
Monroe	Oct.19
Montgomery	Oct. 13
Niagara	Oct. 27
Oneida	Oct. 17
Onondaga	Oct 25
Ontario	Oct. 21
Orange	Oct. 21
Orleans	Oct. 17
Oswego	Oct. 27
Otsego	Oct. 4
Rensselaer	Oct. 18
Rockland	TBA
St. Lawrence	Oct. 24
Saratoga	Oct. 20
Schenectady	Oct. 26
Schuyler	Oct 25
Seneca	Oct. 19
Steuben	Oct. 24
Sullivan	Oct. 12
Tioga	Oct. 20
Tompkins	Oct. 20
Ulster	Oct. 11
Washington	Oct. 13
Wayne	Oct. 29
Wyoming	Oct. 24
Yates	Oct. 18

Meeting times, locations and speaker information can be found at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-cam>

Contact your County Farm Bureau for more information.

Fall Features

From a haunted hay ride to picking a pumpkin or walking a corn maze, stop in today for all your fall fun

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THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Impactful Numbers Highlight NYFB’s Effectiveness for Our Members

Numbers often tell the story on our farms. We can talk in acres, pounds of milk and bushels of apples just as a start. Numbers matter to New York Farm Bureau as well.

Our staff took a look at its programs over the past 12 months and used numbers to help tell the story of the organization. The results are impressive, putting a lot of what we do in perspective.

Here are some examples. We know public policy advocacy is the bread and butter of Farm Bureau. Our team monitored 1,047 different pieces of legislation and lobbied on 231 topics at the local, state, and federal levels. Our member support team handled 4,775 phone calls from members who needed assistance. New York Farm Bureau reached 332,000 people on social media and was mentioned in the press about 2,100 times. The organization’s Workers Compensation Safety Group 486 paid \$8 million in dividends back to its members. And NYFB donated \$82,200 to community activities that included FFA, 4-H and regional food banks with another \$32,750 awarded to youth scholarships.

This is just a start to the impact that



David Fisher
NYFB President

“Our strong advocacy, member education, and outreach are helping to address agriculture’s needs today and to better prepare for what is to come.”

our Farm Bureau has on our members. Our strong advocacy, member education, and outreach are helping to address agriculture’s needs today and to better prepare for what is to come. And we have much more in store.

Registration is now open for the first industry wide conference that will be held December 6 in Buffalo

in conjunction with our State Annual Meeting. It’s called “Focusing on the Future of Northeast Agriculture: Adapt. Advance. Achieve.” The informative programming will examine key areas that will impact our farms, including business and market trends, a changing climate, and labor and regulatory issues. The keynote speaker is Brett Sciotto of Aimpoint Research, a global, strategic intelligence firm specializing in agri-food that was named to the 2020 Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing companies in the U.S. Brett will tie everything together and explore the opportunities for Northeast agriculture in a changing world and how our farmers will fit into the larger global market. It will be an exciting event with panelists, networking opportunities, and a trade show. I encourage all of you to attend.

The following day our farmer delegates will gather for the 66th State Annual Meeting. This is the foundation of our grassroots organization. We will debate policy, elect leaders, and hand out awards to some deserving members. After a few years of either virtual or condensed meet-

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THE ZIPLINE

Farm Bureau’s Seat at the Table

The strength of Farm Bureau is on full display when we speak with our one united voice and come to the table to address the challenges we face at the local, state and national level. And it’s our strength and unity that has made us such a trusted voice for agriculture in our nation’s capital. Farm Bureau has a long history of coming to the table with leaders and lawmakers, and I wanted to share these most recent examples of your Farm Bureau leaders advocating for agriculture on the national stage.

This advocacy can different forms, from phone calls and personal meetings to testifying before congressional committees. Whether I am in Washington or on the road, I am keeping in close contact with leaders and lawmakers on your behalf. In recent weeks I’ve spoken with Secretary Vilsack about USDA climate programs, Chairman Gensler about the SEC climate rule, and EPA Administrator Regan about fertilizer restrictions, WOTUS and other topics. I also recently met with House and Senate Agriculture Committee leaders on issues such as livestock and the 2023 farm



Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

bill. And next week I’ll be attending the White House Conference on Hunger.

In this month alone, congressional committees invited several of our state and national leaders to speak on behalf of farmers and ranchers across the country. First, AFBF Vice President and South Dakota Farm Bureau President Scott VanderWal testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee a couple of weeks ago. He spoke in support of the Livestock Regulatory Protection Act of 2021 and shared how U.S. farmers and ranchers have led the way in “promoting soil health, conserving water, enhancing wildlife, efficiently

using nutrients, and caring for their animals.” We have a great sustainability story to share, and your AFBF vice president did just that with lawmakers in Washington.

Arizona Farm Bureau President Stefanie Smallhouse testified last week before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands to address how regulation is impacting ranches like hers, throughout the West, where ranchers are stewards of our public lands. President Smallhouse addressed how a proposed House bill would place Western ranches, and the public lands they help care for, at risk. She called on lawmakers to recognize how “livestock grazing is critical to managing and preventing invasive plant species, decreasing hazardous fuel loads to prevent wildfires, supporting wildlife habitats, and cultivating viable rural economies.”

The sustainability of U.S. agriculture also depends on our ability to compete in global markets and get our farm products to those markets. Texas President Russell Boening testified before the House Ways and

GUEST OPINIONS

Sustainable Wine is an All-Around Win

The New York Wine & Grape Foundation (NYWGF) recently announced the successful completion of the New York Sustainable Winegrowing Vineyard Certification pilot program. Thirty-five grape growers and wineries from across New York State completed a vineyard self-assessment using VineBalance 2022 and subsequently passed an independent verification process completed by a third-party vineyard inspector.

Growers evaluated their vineyard sustainability against 144 action items addressing input reduction, soil health, water protection, resources and waste, energy conservation, ecosystem health, climate resiliency, continuous improvement, and social equity.

Each action item was measured on a scale from one (least sustainable) to four (most sustainable), and growers had to earn an average score of three to pass the workbook. The 35 participating grape growers in the 2022 pilot program will be eligible for



Sam Filler
Director, New York Wine and Grape Foundation

certification in 2023. Concurrently, NYWGF is working with a marketing agency to develop a trust mark for special labeling so consumers can easily identify certified sustainable wines from New York.

Pilot program participants, and future grower or winery who successfully achieves certification, will be permitted to use the program’s trust mark in their marketing efforts. The trust mark will provide participants with a way to include a credible, visible sustainability claim on their product, making it easier for consumers to identify certified sustainable wines from New York.

Most vineyards in New York State

are family farm operations under 100 acres in size. Several of these vineyards apply sustainable, organic and biodynamic farming practices. Due to scale limitations, New York wineries often produce wine in small batches using traditional methods.

These artisanal qualities and thoughtful production practices are highly desirable, but little of this information can be found on a wine label. According to a 2020 survey by Wine Intelligence, consumers seek convenient ways to find and identify sustainable wine “such as clear and simple visual cues or clearly identified sections in a store.”

Organizations such as the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance and Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing have addressed this by developing third-party certifications with special labeling to help consumers make that connection. This labeling strategy is most effective when it is featured prominently on the packaging. However, certification logos are often found on back

labels and still require retailer advocacy to stand out.

When people do make a personal connection with a sustainable producer, it can be an all-around win for the winery, consumer, and ecosystem. Wineries welcome the premiumization of sustainable wine and consumers are willing to support producers who prioritize their values.

A national survey published by the Wine Market Council in 2018 shows that consumers are willing to pay a \$1 to \$3 premium for certified sustainable wines. This is further corroborated by Wine Intelligence, whose 2019 survey shows that consumers are willing to spend even more – up to a \$5 premium – with an average extra spend of \$3 per bottle.

Millennials lead the way in this purchasing behavior, with nineSu out of 10 willing to pay more, and according to Wine Intelligence “a sustainability claim on a product’s label increases a consumer’s intent to purchase.”

Safety Training Support is Critical for Farmers, Employees

A few days ago I received an email from an emergency services nurse whose dedication and concern for her farming neighbors was undeniably weighing on her. As she described in her email, the act of merely driving around her hometown brings with it a list of tragic memories that are hard to reconcile or forget: a neighbor recently crushed by his tractor when it rolled over on him, another pulled into a chopper while chopping hay in his hayloft, another killed by the tines on a manure wagon and yet another crushed under the weight of a four-wheeler. While she acknowledged there were more events, too many to list, one thing was clear, these memories continue to haunt family members, friends and neighbors for years to come.

I have worked at the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) for more than 20



Julie Sorensen
Director, The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

years and what I have observed is a desire and dedication from the farm community to keep their families and workers’ safety to the very best of their ability. However, that can be challenging for farmers who also need to be experts in agronomy, equipment repair, livestock management and labor laws. Given the many hats farmers wear, can we possibly expect them to be industrial hygienists, safety trainers, medical specialists or safety program developers, as well? Fortunately, at NYCAMH we have staff that

has dedicated their lives to understanding hazards on farms, developing solutions and providing training, as well as technical expertise to farms and farmworkers. This means that farmers in NY don’t have to be safety specialists, industrial hygienists or occupational physicians to ensure the safety of their families or workers, they have NYCAMH.

In the past year, our Center has trained almost 4,500 farm workers and over the past decade, we have helped farmers install rollbars on thousands of tractors. Several years ago we launched a small farm safety program, called the John May Farm Safety Fund, which helps farmers pay for safety upgrades. This program has assisted farmers with safety projects such as the installation of livestock handling systems to prevent animal handling injuries or new electrical systems to prevent barn fires. The

list of resources goes on, from fitting farmers for respiratory protection, to providing driveline and equipment shielding, to case management assistance in the event a farmer is injured. These resources are mostly free of charge and offered on the farm. Our hope is that by being available to the farm community day in and day out, we can prevent the types of tragic events described by the emergency services nurse whose concern for her neighbors was so notable.

While we have pioneered ways to make health and safety easy or affordable, it is important to point out that investments in these services is badly needed. Our Center’s budget has remained flat for 12 years, making it increasingly difficult to provide these badly needed services to farm-

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ZIPLINE

From Page 4

Means Committee last week on the importance of building a robust trade partnership with Taiwan, and across the Indo-Pacific region. He urged lawmakers to work with the Administration to reduce trade barriers and hold our trade partners accountable because “U.S. agricultural competitiveness is dependent on having a level playing field.”

Finally, the health and sustainability

of our agricultural communities depends on bridging the digital divide. As I travel the country, I regularly hear how critical broadband connections are to our farms and rural communities. (And I’ve faced the challenges and frustrations of unreliable or slow internet on my own farm.) Missouri Farm Bureau President Garrett Hawkins shared these challenges with the House Agriculture Committee last week and discussed how Missouri Farm Bureau has brought together leaders, lawmakers and researchers to reach unserved and underserved communities in their

state. As Pres. Hawkins told the committee, “Knowing where adequate broadband services do and do not exist is critical to crafting sound public policies related to broadband deployment in rural areas.” Getting all Americans online requires partnership at the local, state and national level to identify gaps in service and to connect communities to resources.

Thank you, Presidents VanderWal, Smallhouse, Boening and Hawkins for carrying on our rich Farm Bureau tradition of advocacy! I am proud to work closely with these leaders as we serve you together. Bottom line,

part of the strength of Farm Bureau is having many capable leaders and advocates to ensure all the bases are covered when it comes to advocating on behalf of farmers and ranchers. But please don’t ever forget that one of the most effective components of advocacy is when you reach out directly to your local and state leaders to share your story. Advocacy at every level is part of our federation’s effectiveness, and key to ensuring a bright future for agriculture.

Study Shows Single Cover Crop Can Outperform Average Mixtures

Cover crops can be a valuable tool for weed suppression—successfully competing with weeds for light, water, nutrients and space. As a result, new cover crop seed mixes are growing in popularity as a sustainable option for weed management. But do these diverse mixtures do a better job at suppressing weeds than a single, monoculture cover crop?

In this multiyear field study featured in the journal *Weed Science*, a team from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada set out to answer that question. They compared 19 monoculture cover crops from four taxonomic groups (brassica, forb, grass, and legume), with 19 mixtures containing multiple plants that represented from one to three cover crop species.

Their results demonstrated that weed bio-

mass dramatically declined as cover crop biomass and diversity increased. However, monocultures of buckwheat, oat, pearl millet or sorghum sudangrass were typically more productive and more weed suppressive than the average mixture. This result was consistent across regions, seasons, mixture composition and functional diversity.

“If weed suppression is the primary goal, consistent evidence suggests that a single, high-performing cover crop may be the most effective option,” says Andrew G. McKenzie-Gopsill, Ph.D., a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

To learn more, read the open access article here: <https://tinyurl.com/cambridge-crop-study>



Sorghum sudangrass

Cambridge University Press

FISHER

From Page 4

ings, this will be a return to normalcy as we gather together in a new and expanded meeting.

Before that happens, I hope to see as many of you as I can as I attend some of the County Farm Bureau Annual Meetings across the state. This is a time to reconnect with each other as the harvest season winds down. I encourage each of you come to the meetings ready to engage on public policy and to put your ideas forward. Everything in our policy book originated from a member having an idea of what would help his or her farm.

When all is said and done, I can’t wait to see the numbers. The number of attendees at our new conference, the number of public policy resolutions introduced, and the number of friends, old and new, that we will meet along the way in the coming months.

SORENSEN

From Page 5

ers throughout the state. In addition to flat funding, gas, medical supplies and labor costs have increased markedly and funding for worker training has actually decreased over the past few years making it even more challenging to travel throughout the state to train workers. At a time, when farmers are increasingly struggling with profit margins, investments in training for workers, healthcare, equipment or worksite safety upgrades is needed more than ever. If we do not, as a society, take the time to invest in and support our state’s producers, we need to understand that it is the farmer who will bear the brunt of our neglect. On the contrary, planting the seeds of care and support for our farm community and tending them with dedicated attention will ensure a harvest that benefits us all.

For more information, please contact Julie Sorensen at 1-800-343-7527.


Gain a Competitive Edge - Join an NYFB Issue Committee Today

NYFB recently opened its Issue Committees to all members. Join an Issue Committee now to receive targeted agricultural industry-specific updates about the latest news and inside scoop on legislation, regulation, and related events. This is your one-stop shop to gain valuable insights and information on the issues you care about most.


Issue Committees include Dairy, Labor, Speciality Crops and Organics, Farm Beverage, Cannabis, Equine, Livestock and Field Grains

Advisory Members of each committee are appointed by the NYFB Board of Directors annually. To sign up, go to: <https://www.nyfb.org/programs/issue-committees>

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From left, Brymer Humphreys, Chair of the Oneida County Farmland Protection Board; Marty Broccoli, Ag Economic Development Specialist from Oneida County CCE; Anthony J. Picente, Jr., Oneida County Executive; John Collins, Oneida County Farm Bureau President; Ben Simons, President of the Oneida County Association of Towns and Sherriff Rob Maciol, Oneida County Sherriff.

Oneida County Kicks Off ‘Share the Road’ Farm Safety Initiative

On Sept. 12, Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. and Sheriff Robert Maciol kicked off the county’s “Share the Road” farm safety initiative that will post approximately 100 road signs to warn motorists of farm equipment travel in areas of high traffic and history of farm vehicle accidents.

The “Share the Road” farm safety initiative is a partnership between the county, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County (CCE) and the Oneida County Farm Bureau. The road signs were designed by the Oneida County Department of Planning, purchased by CCE and the Farm Bureau and will be installed by the Oneida County Department of Public Works. The cost to implement the initiative is approximately \$3,000.

Sign locations were chosen based six specific criteria:

- Being on county-owned roads
- Recommendations by CCE, the Farm Bureau, the Farmland Protection Board and the Sheriff’s Office.
- Analysis of highly-trafficked

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Local municipalities can fill out an online application to request signs for their roadways here: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-sharetheroad>

A map of the sign locations can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-str-signs>

- county roads.
- Targeted large concentrations of agriculture.
 - Analysis of traffic accident data involving farm equipment over the past three years.
 - Even geographic distribution between municipalities.
- Approximately 70 signs will be installed beginning this month in targeted areas within Augusta, Ava, Bridgewater, Camden, Deerfield, Florence, Floyd, Kirkland, Lee, Marcy, Marshall, New Hartford, Paris, Remsen, Rome, Sangerfield, Stueben, Trenton, Verona, Vienna, Western, Westmoreland and Whitestown. More are expected to be posted in near the future and requests for additional locations will be accepted from municipal governments.

“It is once again an honor to partner with our friends, County Executive Anthony Picente and Sherriff Rob Maciol, two individuals with an unwavering commitment to support the farmers of Oneida County,” said John Collins, President of the Oneida County Farm Bureau. “It is more important than ever with the changes to today’s modern farm equipment that we encourage our fellow county residents to be more vigilant than ever when driving our rural roads, especially as we are in the midst of harvest season. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the county and Cornell Cooperative Extension to work on this project to support our farmers.”

Oneida County (ocgov.net)

\$1.4M Available to help NYS Grown & Certified Farms

NYSDAM

ALBANY — State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball recently announced that \$1.4 million is available to help New York fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop growers produce their products in an environmentally responsible manner through the Agricultural Environmental Management program (AEM). Farmers must be participants in the New York State Grown & Certified program to be eligible for funding to assist with the implementation of their AEM plans. The Request for Proposals can be found here. **The deadline for growers to apply is Oct. 24, 2022.**

Funding for the implementation of the Agricultural Environmental Management plan is provided through the Environmental Protection Fund, as part of the Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative. Assisting specialty crop farms to produce foods with the highest environmental standards will protect and improve New York’s natural resources, including water and soil quality.

New York’s County Soil and Water Conservation Districts are eligible to apply for the program on behalf of farmers. The maximum award for a project is \$50,000. Funding for farms enrolled in the New York State Grown & Certified program will be made available statewide,



video and sales materials, to encourage program participation among producers and to educate retail, wholesale and institutional buyers on the value of the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about how to join NYS Grown & Certified, please visit: www.certified.ny.gov.

Winners of the 2022 Dairy Products Competition Announced at NYS Fair

NYSDAM

In celebration of Dairy Day last month at The New York State Fair, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball announced the winners of the 2022 Dairy Products Competition.

Stewart’s was honored with gold for the state’s top-scoring milk, and Dygert Farms earned silver. In addition, Cabot Creamery Cooperative was named Grand Champion for its Horseradish Cheddar.

The Annual Dairy Day awarded cheese processors and manufacturers from across the state, in addition to its fluid milk producers, with gold or silver honors, or an Award of Excellence. This year there were 152 entries across all categories.

Other highlights from the competition include:

- **Weissman Farms** also won gold in the Flavored Milk category.
- **King Brothers Dairy** took home gold in the Small Processors Fluid Milk category as well as the Chocolate Milk category and the Flavored Yogurt category.
- **HP Hood** (Arkport, Vernon and Lafargeville plants) earned the most medals overall, with a total of 16. They received the gold in the Cottage Cheese- Full-fat, Low-fat Cottage Cheese, and Fat-free Cottage Cheese categories, and silver in the Sour Cream, Dairy Dips and Plain Yogurt categories.
- **Great Lakes Cheese** won gold for its cheddar and aged cheddar, earning at a total of six medals.
- **Old Chatham Creamery** won gold for its plain yogurt and flavored natural cheese.
- **Middle Road Creamery** won gold for its feta in the Goat/Sheep Soft Cheese category.

Entries were submitted for 25 categories, including fluid milk, various types of cheeses, sour cream, yogurt, dips, and cottage cheese. Cheese classes were evaluated by eight expert judges. This year, the Chief Judge was Valerie Catlin from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets’ Division of Milk Control. Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Milk Quality Improvement Program judged the fluid milk portion of the competition.

Currently, New York has nearly 3,600 dairy farms producing more than 15 billion pounds of milk, approximately seven percent of the country’s total milk supply. New York is also a leading producer in the country of yogurt, cottage cheese and creamed cheese. Total cheese production also continues to grow, accounting for more than one billion pounds last year.



Compliance
Corner

By Lisa Ovitt
lovitt@nyfb.org

Information for Home Processors of Food

If you plan to make foods such as certain baked goods, jellies, or snack mixes, you may qualify for a Home Processor Exemption. This will allow you to prepare food in your home kitchen for wholesale or retail sale at agricultural farm venues. You will be exempt from Article 20-C licensing.

What is a home processor?

Under New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets regulation, “home processor” refers to an operation that is allowed to manufacture foods for marketing products at wholesale and/or retail, including agricultural venues such as farms, farm stands, farmers markets, green markets, craft fairs and flea markets, via home delivery, or via the internet.

All items must be sold within New York State and must be pre-packaged in the home and properly labeled. Packaging of food items at an agricultural event (craft fair, farmers’ market, etc.) is not permitted. **Shipping products out of state is not permitted.**

Home processors are allowed to sell items wholesale to local facilities (restaurants, cafes, grocery stores, etc.) that wish to carry them. You will need to manufacture, package, and label the items accordingly. **These products can only be sold to facilities within New York State.**

TIP: Be sure to consult with your local zoning officials for approval before commencing any home-based business.

Do home processors need a license?

No, home processors are allowed to manufacture their products without an Article 20-C Food Processing License, the standard NYS license that is required for manufacture of all other foods. However, home processors in New York must be registered and have their water tested.

Home processed foods shall be manufactured in a private home or residence using only ordinary kitchen facilities. Ordinary kitchen facilities are the facilities of an individually owned private home or residence used to prepare meals for the owner, the owner’s family and household. Commercial equipment is not considered ordinary kitchen facilities.

Are the kitchens of home processors subject to inspection?

Inspections are no longer necessary. However, if a complaint is made, a home processor’s kitchen may be subject to inspection.

Which foods are approved for home processing?

The home processor license exemption is limited to foods where there is not a history of food borne illness and the nature of the product makes the possibility of illness less likely. In order to protect public health and to minimize the potential of food product adulteration, this exemption is restricted to the following approved non-potentially hazardous home processed foods:

- Breads (**bread containing fruits and/or vegetables are not allowed**)
- Rolls and/or cinnamon rolls, biscuits, bagels, doughnuts, cookies, muffins, baklava, biscotti (**No chocolate or candy melts allowed for topping**), scones
- Cakes and cake pops (**No chocolate or candy melts allowed for topping**)
- Cupcakes and brownies
- Double-crust fruit pies
- Fruit jams, jellies, and marmalades made with high acid/low pH fruits (i.e. apple, apricot, blackberry, blueberry, cherry, clementine, cranberry, currants, elderberry, grape, grapefruit, lemon, lime, nectarine, orange, peach, pear, pineapple, Plum, Raspberry and Strawberry)
- Repackaging/blending of commercially dried spices or herbs
- Repackaging dried or dehydrated vegetables
- Repackaging dried soup mixes
- Repackaging dried fruit
- Repackaging of dried pasta. **The manufacturing and drying of pasta is prohibited.**
- Repackaging dry baking mixes , Seasoning salt
- Fudge
- Popcorn/Caramel corn
- Peanut brittle
- Rice Krispies Treats
- Granola and trail mix (using commercially roasted nuts)
- Granola Bars (using commercially roasted nuts)
- Repackaging candy (excluding chocolate) **-Melting and/or repackaging of exposed chocolates or chocolate-like candies is not allowed.**
- Waffle cones and pizelles
- Toffee/caramel apples (**candy melts are not allowed**)
- Confections – includes toffees, caramels, hard candies
- Vegetable Chips – include potato chips
- Crackers
- Pretzels

What are potentially hazardous foods?

Potentially hazardous foods include perishable products made in whole or in part of milk products, eggs, poultry, meat, fish, and shell-

fish. These are products that usually need to be refrigerated, and any finished food product that requires refrigeration is not allowed to be produced by a home processor. The Department will, on an annual basis, review current scientific literature and home processors registrations that were approved during the previous year to update the listing of non-potentially hazardous home processed foods approved by the Department.

What Items are Prohibited?

Some examples of prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Homemade buttercream/cream cheese frosting containing dairy or eggs
- Breads containing fruits or vegetables
- Products containing alcohol
- “No-bake” products (All products must be baked to ensure product stability)
- Pickles, relishes, sauerkraut
- Sauces, salsa, marinades, mustards, ketchups
- Cooked or canned fruits or vegetables
- Cheesecake, cream filled pastries, cream pies or meringue pies
- Tempered chocolate/candy melt/almond bark for dipping/coating/drizzling (i.e. cocoa bombs, chocolate candy, chocolate/candy melt covered fruits, etc.)
- Any products containing raw nuts
- Pepper jellies, wine jellies, vegetable jellies, flower jellies, chutneys
- Butters, cheese, yogurt, fluid dairy products
- Meat, fish, poultry products
- Vegetable oils, blended oils, salad dressings
- Beverages
- Roasted coffee beans
- Nut butters
- Freeze-dried foods
- Compotes
- Spreads
- Quiche
- Fudge/caramel sauces

Any finished food product that requires refrigeration is not allowed to be produced as a Home Processor.

Pet foods and pet treats can be made from the home but require a separate registration. Learn more about manufacturing and distributing pet foods at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/pet-food>

NOTE: Regulations for home processors do not allow home processors to make custom (wedding/birthday/anniversary/graduation) cakes, cupcakes, cookies etc. Custom bakery items are under the jurisdiction of the state, county, or

local Department of Health.

NOTE: If on a private water system (well) resident must have a water test analysis performed for Coliform, and include a copy of the test results with application, before a home processor can be registered.

Are labels required?

Product labels are required to contain the following information: common/usual name of the product, ingredient list in predominance by weight, net quantity of contents, processor name and full address. All allergens (eggs, milk, fish, shellfish, soybeans, peanuts, tree nuts) must be clearly identified in the product ingredient statement.

TIP: It is recommended that processors add a phrase like “Made at Home by XYZ,” or “Made in the Home Kitchen of XYZ,” or “Made in a Home Kitchen,” to their label in addition to the label requirements outlined below. The font size for this phrase should be 1/16th inch or larger.

Example:

Chocolate Chip Cookies
Ingredients: enriched flour (wheat flour, malted barley flour, niacin, iron, thiamin mononitrate, riboflavin, folic acid), butter (cream, salt), semi-sweet chocolate (sugar, chocolate, cocoa butter, milkfat, soy lecithin, natural flavors), brown sugar, granulated sugar, eggs, vanilla extract (vanilla bean extract, alcohol, sugar), baking soda, salt (salt, calcium silicate)
NET WT 1 lbs. (453g)

XYZ Cookie Company
123 Chocolate Chip Way
[Cookietown, NY 11235](#)

Contains: milk, eggs, wheat, soy
Made in a home kitchen

TIP: While the Department does not mandate you to obtain insurance, best practice would be to consult an attorney or an insurance professional to discuss your product liability concerns and risks.

For more information visit the Department’s website at: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing>

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.



Promotion & Education

By Patti Dugan
pdugan@nyfb.org



ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

An Oneida County Farm Bureau member hands out dairy products to children at the Oneida County Parade.

Many Events Keep Oneida's P&E Committee Busy in 2022

By Karen K. Howard

NYFB Promotion & Education State
Committee District 6 Representative

Since Oneida County has an active Promotion & Education (P&E) program and conducts activities throughout the year, I thought that I would share some of these activities and events to give your county P&E committee ideas of programs that they can conduct.

Oneida County Farm Bureau has been busy the last few months. I started by having the chance to go to Minnesota for the AFBF Target Training Conference which included many exciting tours and a chance to learn more about ways to communicate with the public.

This year for our county fair, we once again entered a float for the parade on the opening night. We are excited to say our float won first place. Yay Oneida County Farm Bureau! We were fortunate enough to have donations from local dairy farmers, dairy food processors, and agribusinesses. These donations allowed us to give out samples along the parade route so that the public could enjoy dairy products!

During the fair, Oneida County Farm Bureau had a display that supported the fair families with fun activities and a place to rest.

The most exciting news is the partnership between Oneida County Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County (CCE) and Oneida County for a “Share the Road” farm safety initiative.

The “Share the Road” initiative will



ONEIDA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Oneida County Farm Bureau's first place prize-winning float.

post approximately 100 signs to warn motorists of farm equipment travel in areas of high traffic and a history of farm vehicle accidents. The road signs were designed by the Oneida County Department of Planning, purchased by CCE and Farm Bureau and will be installed by the Oneida County Department of Public Works. The cost to implement the initiative is approximately \$3,000.

This December, Oneida County Farm Bureau will host their Sixth Annual Ag Trivia Night and looks forward to having a great night answering trivia questions and enjoying the many donations that they will be able to raffle off from the very generous supporters in the county. Oneida County Farm Bureau was able to support the local 4-H program with the proceeds from last year's Trivia Night.

I hope these activities that have been held in my county can spark some interest in getting your county involved in the Promotion & Education program. If you have questions on the P&E program, email: proed@nyfb.org.



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Tolosky Returns to New York FFA as State Director

New York FFA's former Director Derek Hill returns to the classroom after nearly seven years of leadership of the State FFA Association. Hill's tenure saw FFA navigate incredible growth and significant challenges. Between 2015 and today, New York FFA increased the number of students, teachers and schools that had access to FFA in partnership with national initiatives and strategic funding on the state level. From incentivized funding to create new programs and grow existing ones to innovative and professional responses to restrictions and cancellations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, FFA benefitted from his proactive and innovative response to ongoing challenges.

Joining New York FFA in the role of Director is Juleah Tolosky. Juleah is a familiar face to New York agriculture, having served as New York FFA's Executive Secretary between 2007 and 2015. During that time, she worked to increase the size and quality of FFA events and services such as the State FFA Convention, the leadership development series and FFA's agricultural experience and recognition programs. Her leadership was anchored in prioritizing the student experience and building mutually



Tolosky

beneficial relationships with leaders in NY agriculture, education and state leadership. Since 2015, Tolosky has served as the Executive Director of Minnesota FFA where her experience allowed her to gain perspectives on strengthening competitive and work-based learning experiences for students. She is currently the national chairperson of the SAE for All committee, a group working to implement a work-based learning model that engages all students within personal agricultural experiences to develop career directedness and readiness, agricultural knowledge and personal financial literacy. She also serves as Past-President of the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education where her responsibilities over the past five years have included coordinating professional development, mentoring state leaders from throughout the country and contributing to the leadership of FFA and agricultural education on national and state levels.

Young Entrepreneurs Encouraged to Enter Grow-NY Business Competition

Grow-NY, Cornell University, NYS 4-H, New York FFA, and New York Agriculture in the Classroom are presenting an opportunity to build businesses in New York State.

Young people are the next generation of business developers, agriculture, food, and technology leaders. With the hope of inspiring and investing in the future of food, select middle and high school youth will be chosen to attend the 2022 Grow-NY competition. Outstanding students will be selected to pitch their business idea during the competition to a panel of youth judges.

The Grow-NY competition will

take place Nov. 15-16, 2022 in Syracuse.

Youth selected to attend the competition will have their competition registration paid for by Grow-NY.

Information about your current business plan or business idea will be required to be considered for this experience. One winner will be selected amongst the pitches by a panel of judges. The top pitches will be awarded a cash prize.

Applications are due on October 21 and can be found at: <https://form.jotform.com/222194706400145>

Grow-NY



SPECIAL/CORNELL CFB

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at Cornell.

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER CHRONICLE

Cornell Chapter

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at Cornell is excited for a great year. Starting off the semester we had a guest speaker join us. Mark McCullough spoke at our meeting on Sept. 13. We had around 32 members join us, most of them new to Farm Bureau.

Mark answered many questions about Farm Bureau and careers in agriculture. We have our first tour of the semester scheduled for Oct. 23 at Sunset View Creamery. This tour will be great for members to learn about

small dairy farms, diversification, milk processing and farm store businesses.

Collegiate Farm Bureau at Cornell is always open to tours, speakers or networking with Farm Bureau members. Reach out to yfr@nyfb.org if you or your group is interested and NYFB will share your information with the Chapter.

Updates from Collegiate Chapters at SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Morrisville will be included in next month's Collegiate Chapter Chronicle.

First Avoca Ag Fest Held

The first ever Ag Fest was held in Avoca, NY on Aug. 28. The event was organized by a small committee, including Steuben YF&R member Emily Brennan.

The goal was to celebrate Avoca's agricultural roots while raising funds for local public park improvements. The day was filled with events such as the tractor show, junior farmer obstacle course, potato decorating, kids tractor pulling competition, dunk tank booth, axe throwing, chain-saw carving, car show, antique fire truck rides, bake sale, and much more.

The event was well attended with 40+ tractors and 60+ cars participating in the shows. Emily would like to thank Steuben County Farm Bureau for being a sponsor of this event and participating in the youth education activities. Young farmers, Sarah Teed and Josh Hovencamp were also in attendance to help with youth events. Sarah and Emily



SPECIAL/STEBUEN COUNTY YF&R

An ag fest attendee attempts the obstacle course.

are NYFB State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee members and represent District 4.



SPECIAL/NY AG SOCIETY

Twelve Ambassadors were selected in 2022 to attend the NYS Agricultural Society's Annual Forum and leadership training.

Ag Society Urging Young Adults to be Forum Ambassadors

The New York State Agricultural Society Foundation is looking for its next Ambassador Class for the 2023 Ag Forum to be held Jan. 12, 2023 at the Syracuse OnCenter.

Since 2014, donors to the NYS Agricultural Society Foundation have sponsored a cadre of young adults ages 18 to 25 to participate in the NYS Agricultural Society Annual Meeting and Forum and professional development training.

Participants are passionate about agriculture and food. Whether in college or newly employed, they are eager to engage with supply chain decision-makers, dive into priority issues, and build hard business skills and a pro-

fessional network.

For the 2023 Ambassador Class, the NYS Agricultural Society Foundation welcomes previous participants to reapply for a second-year experience as well as those new to the program. All meeting expenses and overnight accommodations are paid for by the NYS Ag Society Foundation.

New York Ag Society

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The online application is due on Nov. 19 and can be found here: <https://www.nysagsociety.org/ambassador-program/>

Commodity Report: Wine



SPECIAL/MARGO SUE BITTNER

The property where Marjim Manor now stands was purchased for \$140.95 by a New Jersey native in 1834.

Getting in the Spirit

The Winery at Marjim Manor has an Extensive History of Dramatic Deaths and Residents from the Past

What’s the difference between a wine and a spirit? At the Winery at Marjim Manor in Appleton, NY, wine is what is served, and spirits are who you might meet.

The winery and its property, owned by Jim and Margo Sue Bittner, have an extensive history of owners and residents who’ve met tragic ends.

In 1834, Shubal Scudder Merritt bought 205 acres, where the current winery is located, from the Holland Land Company for \$140.95. He built a log cabin and moved his family onto the property. He and Sophia Spencer Willson were married in 1830 and their son Lewis Willson was born in 1832. Eventually, he built a frame house and two more children were born, Phoebe Sophia and Cordelia Marie.

He then sent back to New Jersey, his home state, and had peach pits shipped to Niagara County. He quickly established the first commercial peach order.

According to legend, Merritt’s wife Sophia wanted a grand manor. While it was being built, Sophia passed away. Shubal completed the house and moved in with his three children.

One Thursday, Shubal and Lewis had gone hunting. When they came in, Shubal went to the liv-

ing room to clean his gun. Lewis went upstairs, opened his mail and learned his tuition at the University of Rochester was being raised to \$12 a semester. Being horrified, he flew down the stairs to tell his father, burst through the doors, startling Shubal so that he accidentally shot his son,

Being devastated by the death, Shubal ordered the French doors locked, never to be opened again. They stayed securely shut, only bursting open Thursday at 3 p.m. Shubal lived there until 1881, when he died on March 2 at 3 p.m.

Phoebe Sophia and her husband Lucius Adams moved into the house. While the Adams family lived in the haunted house, they decided to redecorate.

One Thursday at 3 p.m., the doors burst open, Phoebe looked up, gave a gasp, and fell down dead.

Dr. Charles Ring bought the house in 1895. His wife Hannah did not want to live in Buffalo near her 80-year-old father and thirty-something stepmother. Dr. Ring became known for his fruit crops, especially peaches. His joy was working with Cornell University to improve his farming methods. Dr. Ring was also one of the founders of the Western New York Horticulture Society.

Hannah became ill. As Dr. Ring

wrote in his diary, after three months and three days, Hannah’s illness consumed her and she died Sunday at 3 p.m.

Dr. Ring then met Estella Morse. She claimed to be a shrewd businesswoman, having overseen the concessions at the Pan American exposition in 1901 and the World’s Fair in St. Lewis in 1904. She also claimed to be the “private secretary” to Mr. Statler of Statler hotels.

After meeting Dr. Ring, she convinced him that he needed someone to run his household. She later convinced him to get engaged and change his will. One month after changing his will, Dr. Ring died Thursday supposedly of heart disease on Feb. 28, 1908, allegedly at 3 p.m. Estelle, as she was called, promptly moved into the house with her widowed sister, Florella. Florella died in the home in September 1908.

Estelle married the caretaker who lived next door. She, the caretaker, and her now widowed sister (the very young stepmother) all moved into the house together.

In 1933, the Sisters of St. Joseph purchased the house to use as a summer retreat and a camp for girls. They added a front porch onto the house giving it 100 win-

NYS Launches Certification Program to Protect State’s Grape Industry

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball recently announced that the Department, in partnership with Cornell University, has relaunched its Grapevine Certification program to protect and support New York’s wine and grape industry. The program provides the most stringent testing protocols in North America for viruses of grapevine plants, greatly reducing introduction of virus-infected vines to new vineyards and increasing the odds that plants being sold will yield a healthy crop. Three New York nurseries are participating in the program and offering New York-certified vines to vineyards across the State, eastern United States, and eastern Canada.

Partnering With Cornell

Commissioner Ball said, “This nation leading certification program is critical to the economic well-being of our grape growers here in New York State. It gives them a head start in knowing that the grapevines they’re buying and planting are virus free, and have an increased likelihood of producing a quality crop. We’re proud to partner with Cornell Agri-Tech on this program, whose technology advancements are making it possible to detect, with extreme accuracy and in a short amount of time, virus presence in grapevines, helping to protect our significant wine and grape industry here in New York State.”

Staff at the Department has been working with three nurseries—Amberg Grapevines in Clifton Springs; Double A Vineyards in Fredonia; and Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard in Dundee—to collect leaf samples of the vines, which are then sent to the virology lab at Cornell AgriTech in Geneva for testing. Using cutting-edge technology, the staff at Cornell is able to provide better, more accurate results in just a fraction of the time it used to take (weeks vs. years) to determine whether plant materials were carrying a virus.

Testing allows for safety

Nurseries initially source virus-tested plants from foundation vineyards at clean plant centers in Davis, California and Prosser, Washington that are part of the USDA’s National Clean Plant Network. The Department’s ongoing, subsequent testing allows the nursery to catch any vi-

CERTIFIED

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rus introductions and remove those infected vines before the plants are propagated and sold to vineyards as stock.

New York annually samples every fourth vine in the nursery mother block, which is the source of cuttings for all new vines. Over the course of four years, 100% of these vines are sampled checking that no viruses have been introduced via insect vectors. At the nursery level, this represents the most frequent testing program in North America.

Economic benefits

The certification program will economically benefit New York’s wine and grape industry, which is ranked third in the nation for grape production. Grapes are susceptible to viruses that can be passed on during the process of propagation, reducing the lifespan of grapevines as well as the yield, sugars, and overall quality of the crop. Investing in New York certified vines saves money for growers by extending the life of their vineyard and improving the quality of the harvest.

For example, a study conducted by Cornell concluded that uncontrolled grapevine leafroll disease on Cabernet franc vineyard in the Finger Lakes ranged from \$10,000 to \$17,000 per acre over 25 years (2012).

The program was revitalized at the request of New York nurseries and growers. Dr. Marc Fuchs, Professor at Cornell University and Tim Martinson, Senior Extension Associate at



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

Cornell Cooperative Extension were key resources as the Department’s Division of Plant Industry worked jointly with the nurseries to draft the requirements of the certification program.

The New York certification program recently received recognition from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, enabling participating nurseries to export grapevines and apple trees to Canada and opening a significant new market for New York nurseries.

Expected program expansion

The department expects the voluntary grapevine certification program will expand as these New York certified vines become available and more vines are produced in response to demand. In addition to grapevines, the department is certifying apple trees, working with Wafler Nursery in Wolcott. Apple trees in the nursery undergo a similar process of testing and inspection.

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Wine Folly Releases New York Wine Region Guide

New York Wine & Grape Foundation

Wine Folly, the leading digital wine education platform, has announced the launch of the New York State Wine Region Guide, the first comprehensive digital guide to the New York wine region.

This ninth wine region guide showcases the state of New York with over 400 wineries. All participating wineries are now directly benefiting from Wine Folly’s consumer reach of over 20 million wine consumers globally.

3500 wineries have been featured in Wine Folly Wine Region guides thus far.

“Wine Folly Wine Region Guides are the best way for consumers to discover new wine regions and wines,” said David Gluzman, CEO of Wine Folly. “We’re very excited to share New York State as the latest wine region added to Wine Folly as we continue to expand this modern way to learn about wine regions and their wines.”

Valerie Ross, Director of Programs and Marketing, New York Wine &

Grape Foundation said “We are so proud to see the New York Wine Region Guide launched today! Thanks to Wine Folly and our partners at Long Island Wine Country and Discover Long Island for making this possible. We look forward to introducing New York’s distinct regions to Wine Folly’s worldwide audience of passionate wine enthusiasts.”

“We are excited for the launch of the Wine Folly New York Wine Guide which showcases the world class wines, winemakers, and diversity of styles that comprise the wine regions of New York,” said Shelby Hearn Ulrich, Vice President of the Long Island Wine Council. “Long Island Wine Country, along with our partners across the state—New York Wine & Grape Foundation and Discover Long Island—celebrate the continued growth, innovation, and global recognition of New York wines.”

The guide can be found here:
newyork.guides.winefolly.com

MARJIM MANOR

From Page 11

dows. Their dog Duke liked to hang out the in dining room. At least until one Thursday, at 3 p.m. Duke stood up barked at the French doors, lay down, and died. That is the last known death Thursday at 3 p.m.

According to a story published in *The Buffalo News* in 2020, strange occurrences began within the converted 25-room mansion along the Lake Ontario shoreline soon after Jim and Margo Sue Bittner purchased the property in 2003.

During the grand opening celebration, a series of doors opened and shut as if someone was running through the house. At Christmas one year, a bottle of wine dropped off the shelf and began to spin around the floor like a game of “spin the bottle.” And recently, an employee carrying a case of wine saw the storage room door handle move and the door open for him.

Margo Sue even officiated a wedding ceremony where everyone’s

digital cameras abruptly shut off – and then just as mysteriously turned back on.

“Things will happen. Things will move, I’ll see shadows moving when there’s really no explanation for it,” she said. “It’s just a ghost. It’s their house, too. They show up when they feel like showing up,” she told *The Buffalo News* reporter.

To continue the theme of the original owner, the Bittners recently planted some peaches on that same plot of land with the aid of Cornell University.

Marjim Manor has names that include the spirits: Shubal’s Sunset, Sophia’s Sunrise, Thursday Afternoon at 3, and Lady in the Window. Some tie into the house itself: 50 Windows and 100 Windows. And some of the wines relate to the family: a Pear Made in Heaven, Applely Ever After, Gift from the Vine.

If you come Thursday afternoon at 3, Margo Sue or Jim can give you a sticker that proclaims, “I Survived Thursday Afternoon at 3.”

Story courtesy of Margo Sue Bittner



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SPECIAL REPORT:

ELECTION 2022

Candidates Talk Agriculture

Farmers across the state are carefully watching candidates for election to offices at all levels of government. Farm Bureau recently sent a survey to candidates in a number of key federal races. The survey is designed to encourage a dialogue about agricultural issues during the campaign and provide information to New York Farm Bureau members that they can use when voting on Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

2022 Election Calendar

Oct. 14	Last day to register to vote
Oct. 24	Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail or online
Oct. 29 - Nov. 6	Early voting dates for general election
Nov. 7	Deadline to request absentee ballot at local Board of Elections
Nov. 8	Absentee voting: postmark date for ballot
Nov. 8	General Election
Nov. 15	All absentee ballots must be received

GOVERNOR'S RACE

Gov. Kathy Hochul (D)

‘We Need Young People to be Active and Engaged in Learning about Agriculture’

Q1: Due to the land requirements for most types of agriculture, farms are typically located in more rural areas of the state. Given that a great number of New York lawmakers represent urban and suburban districts that may not have agricultural operations within their borders, how do you plan to help educate and influence urban/suburban representatives’ votes on legislation that impacts agriculture?



economy continues to struggle, with sky rocketing diesel and fertilizer costs, labor, both in New York and across the nation. What steps would you take to support farmers to help them continue to produce food to feed the residents of this state?

A2: First off, there is no nobler profession or purpose than to feed people. We must be successful in meeting our citizens’ basic needs, and ensuring access to food for all New Yorkers is essential for our society to function properly. I really want to thank the Farm Bureau and your members for what they do!

I proposed, and the Legislature adopted, three new tax credits in this year’s budget to directly address the rising costs of labor and to support farm investments here in New York. I doubled and extended the Farm Workforce Retention Credit to help address labor costs. I provided a new Overtime

A1: New York’s farms are important to the state’s economy and feed people all over the state. Nourish NY is a shining example of how we can connect farmers and food with people in need. Legislative support for the program was unanimous. I signed the program into state law and provided \$50 million to continue this critical initiative, a great example of how we can all rally around important ideas to boost our agricultural economy.

I was honored to receive the 4-H Distinguished Alumni Medallion from the National 4-H Council while visiting our state fair. I actually gave my first public speech as a 4-H’er at the Erie County Fair when I was 10. From there, I built confidence and valuable life skills that I still draw from to this day, which I will use to make sure that agriculture is recognized for its important role here in New York.

U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin (R)

‘We Need More Efficient, Streamlined Protections for our State’s Ag Industry’

Q1: Due to the land requirements for most types of agriculture, farms are typically located in more rural areas of the state. Given that a great number of New York lawmakers represent urban and suburban districts that may not have agricultural operations within their borders, how do you plan to help educate and influence urban/suburban representatives’ votes on legislation that impacts agriculture?



A1: I strongly believe that the Governor of New York should be the Governor for all New Yorkers. Over the past few decades, we have unfortunately seen the “three persons in a room” mentality take over the government in New York State. As part of my Reform Albany plan, I intend to put that practice behind us. The Legislature should be required to much more actively utilize the conference committee process between the two houses to organize its deliberations, set priorities, and reach an agreement on a budget. I believe this would encourage discussion throughout the rest of the Legislative session as well. Unfortunately, it seems that the three persons in a room are not taking the process very seriously. For example, the first and only public meeting that is on the Conference’s website is a 15-minute long meeting on March 14 to discuss the Executive Budget.

As governor, I would insist that the legislature take this process seriously. Specifically, I would offer the

budget director and other high-level administration officials to testify in front of the committee so New Yorkers can get a better sense of where and how their elected officials are working for them. This would allow rank and file legislators to get more involved in the budget process, including representatives from rural districts.

I would also actively work with all members of the legislature to ensure that priorities from every corner of the state are being taken into consideration. Too often, we see certain parts of the state receive more attention than others. As governor, I would work tirelessly to ensure that New Yorkers from every corner of this state feel they have sufficient representation in Albany and that their concerns and grievances are heard loud and clear.

I would actively travel to rural parts of the state to bring government directly to the farmers as opposed to requiring farmers to figure out how to deliver their priorities to Albany.

Q2: It is no secret that the farm

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ELECTION 2022

Congressional Race Questions

The candidates listed below chose to respond to NYFB by this issue’s editorial deadline. The NYFB Congressional Candidate survey questions are listed below. The question numbers below correspond to the numbered answers in each of the candidate’s statements:

1. What do you think is the largest issue facing farmers in this district? What solutions would you seek?
2. One of the biggest challenges for New York agriculture is having access to reliable, skilled labor when domestic workers cannot meet this need. Delays in the H-2A program have frustrated farmers and led to loss of crops and unknown legal status of current workers are all concerns that farmers have when it comes to a dependable work-

New York Farm Bureau also reached out to all New York candidates on the ballot for the U.S. House of Representatives where those seats are currently occupied by a member sitting on the Agriculture Committee as well as open seats. The candidates listed here chose to respond to NYFB by this issue’s editorial deadline. Congressional candidates were limited to answers of 150 words or less.

- force. How do you see Congress moving forward to address agricultural immigration in a bipartisan manner?
3. Despite growing and raising diverse agricultural products in New York, farmers still face challenges in getting food from the rural areas of our farms to the suburban and urban locations of so many consumers. What would you do to help bridge this divide? What efforts would you take to ensure farmers are able to have reliable markets for their goods?
4. Farmers are known as stewards of the land, and agriculture plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through conservation practices and renewable energy. As Congress works to address climate change, how will you ensure that agriculture is part of the conversation?

NY-1 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Bridget Fleming (D, WFP)

1.) On Long Island, the cost of acreage is very high and can be a barrier for young farmers and those ready to expand. I am proud to have been on the forefront of initiatives to address the cost of farmland through landmark purchase of development rights that reduce the comparative value of acreage and allow our farming economy to continue to thrive. In addition, the temporary worker visa system must be fixed so that seasonal workers are able to once again fill job openings.

2.) We must provide comprehensive reforms to our immigration system, and particularly temporary worker visa programs. Moreover, I would encourage the Dept. of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Agriculture to work together to devise a plan that addresses this critically important need so that farmers have a dependable workforce and can continue to produce and receive the benefits of the market so they can continue to survive and prosper.

3.) Fresh, local food is a key underpinning of a healthy community, and nevertheless American food production and distribution face constant threats. I’m proud to have received Sustainable Long Island’s “Getting it Done” award for establishing a locally supported farm-



Fleming

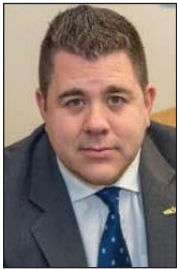
ers market in an area of Southampton Town that is considered a food desert. Transportation to markets is a challenge for Long Island farmers and fishermen. I supported the County cap on the gas tax to reduce transportation costs. I welcome additional efforts to support reducing costs.

4.) Because agriculture plays a critical role in the Suffolk County economy, the voice of farmers needs to be heard on all policy issues impacting Long Island. As I have with other sectors of our economy, I would ensure that farmers are always welcome at the table for critical policy decision making. Having all stakeholders at the table is essential to creating good policy. I would work to require that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency work collaboratively with farmers so that farming interests are not negatively affected by climate plans from Washington. As I have done at the Town level, I would also support legislation that helps promote solar and wind energy in agriculture to help develop sustainable approaches to farming.

Nicholas LaLota (R, Conservative)

1.) The recent 2-1 decision of the Farm Laborers Wage Board and the potential implementation of their recommendation to lower the overtime threshold for farm laborers – for the second time in a few short years – would be disastrous for Long Island farms trying to stay afloat. Farms are the backbone of our food supply, simultaneously dealing with fixed prices, high fuel costs, regulations, inflation, and labor shortages. We don’t need more government mandates from those who don’t understand the industries they are regulating – agricultural policy must be made by those in the field. We must resolve the supply-chain crisis, increase energy exploration to reduce fuel costs, and reverse the policies exacerbating inflation to help keep family farms on Long Island. In Washington, I will work to restore fiscally sound economic and energy policies to unleash the economy from the oppressive conditions holding it back.

2.) Long Island’s agricultural and other labor needs are instrumental to my approach on the immigration issue. I also believe the open border policies of the current administration compromise national security and hurt those who play by the rules. Washington policy makers need to concurrently seal the border and prioritize local and national interests, such as labor needs, in dealing with the people who are here illegally; we



LaLota

all know mass-deportation is not the answer.

3.) Farms are critical to our food supply - locally and regionally. East End farms demonstrated this when they stepped up during the pandemics’ food shortages; transporting goods to Hunts Point when stores couldn’t stock their shelves. We need to look at any regulations keeping costs high, energy exploration, like offshore drilling, to reduce fuel prices, and increasing federal transportation infrastructure funding to help bridge the divide between the farm, local and regional market demands. New York taxpayers get a mere 93 cents back on every tax dollar sent to Washington– that is the fifth worst return on investment of any state in the union. Some states get two or three dollars back for every dollar they send to Washington. Bringing infrastructure dollars back to New York is one way to right that wrong. As a member of Congress, I will fight for Long Island’s fair share.

4.) Farmers, and the realities of the obstacles farmers face, need to be a part of the conversation. The interests of the farming communi-

NY-17 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

(Editor's note: Sean Patrick Maloney, the Democratic candidate in this race, did not respond to our survey by its deadline.)

Michael Lawler (R, Conservative)

1.) Cost of living, a shrinking labor force, and strict state-mandated overtime rules are killing farmers here in the 17th Congressional District. In Congress, I'll push to cut taxes and regulations at the federal level to give farmers in the Hudson Valley real relief; and as Congressman, I'll always fight back against burdensome rules passed by Albany Democrats, many of whom have never set foot on a farm.

2.) There is no question that we need to dramatically overhaul our immigration system at the federal



Lawler

level. Too many migrant workers who are here legally are being prevented from doing their critical functions as a key part of our agricultural industry. At the same time, too many undocumented immigrants are coming here illegally and, in some cases, taking jobs that legal migrant workers would be filling. We must find the proper balance here.

3.) One of the best things we can do to ensure farmers can get their products readily into urban and suburban areas is invest in infrastructure. The bipartisan bill that passed last year was a good start, but we can't let that investment go to waste and must ensure that roads in all communities are improved. Additionally, for farmers in the Hudson Valley, I will strongly oppose congestion pricing, which would drastically increase costs for farmers trying to get their goods to New York City.

4.) In Congress, I will oppose any and all efforts to eliminate industries such as chicken and cattle farming, and will stop efforts to build the greener energy future we need off the backs of hard-working, middle-class farmers in the Hudson Valley. Farmers need to be part of the conversation and we need to take a comprehensive approach to energy, including the use of cheap, reliable natural gas, which helps reduce costs for farming and manufacturing and ensures a clean energy future.

NY-18 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Pat Ryan (D, WFP)

1.) New York's farmers, producers, and ranchers help provide the American people with the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world. The burdens placed on agriculture in recent years, however, including workforce challenges, additional regulations, extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and much more, have made things so much harder for family farms. I think we need to address this confluence of issues head-on, and in a bipartisan way. I outline the solutions I support further in my answers below, but this includes support for legislation to fix our broken H-2A system and help solve workforce challenges, bipartisan legislation to bring farmers to the table on climate change discussion, creating new markets for New York's agricultural products through both federal school meal programs and trade, and much more.

2.) I am hopeful that the passage of the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act in the House has helped break the logjam and finally brought Democrats, Republicans, and the agricultural industry to the table to find a workforce solution for our nation's farmers. This legislation, while not perfect, would create a workforce solution for America's agriculture industry, finally, open up the H-2A program to dairy farmers, and help fix our broken immigration system by creating a path to legal status for farmworkers. I strongly support continued negotiations around this legislation, including ongoing bipartisan discussions in the Senate



Ryan

to pass H-2A reform, and will be a voice in Congress for commonsense solutions.

3.) As we approach the upcoming Farm Bill and Child Nutrition Reauthorization, Congress needs to work in a bipartisan manner to help create opportunities for farmers to connect with consumers in urban and suburban areas. One area where we can and must make progress is with federal school meal programs. School districts should be reimbursed at higher rates if they source agricultural products locally, helping local farmers get their products in schools. We also need to return the full menu of dairy products to schools, including flavored and unflavored whole-fluid milk, to make sure kids get the healthy nutrients they need.

4.) I have heard directly from farmers in the district who are facing the disastrous effects of climate change firsthand, especially more extreme weather. First, we must stand up to radical voices in the environmental community calling for an end to animal agriculture. We must also ensure that efforts towards environmental reform also provide new economic opportunities for farmers. I support legislation like the Growing Climate Solutions Act, a bipartisan bill to make it easier for farmers, ranchers,

Colin Schmitt (R)

1.) In my conversations with farmers across the Hudson Valley, I listen to their concerns and the difficulties their industry faces. Just a few short weeks, I hosted a roundtable event with local farmers and was proud to be joined by Congressman Jason Smith (MO-8), a cattle farmer, right here in my district. Of the issues they expressed to me, they mentioned economic and inflation-related impacts are straining their capacity to compete in the global marketplace. Canadian exports into the U.S. create a destabilized industry and a heavily regulated H-2A program holds back our local farmers by penalizing them for not adhering to new rules and regulations that are constantly changing without communication or notice.

One, we need to restore checks and balances in Washington. One-party control of our state and federal government denies debate and compromise. Two, massive government spending has exacerbated the inflationary crisis we are facing which impacts on all industries. Three, over-regulation continues to hold back our agricultural industries. We must cut the red tape and allow for our local farmers to expand production without fining and penalizing them for producing domestically.

2.) Overregulation in the United States hampers our agricultural industry. Our federal government should not be adding additional hurdles for our local farmers, but instead unleashing American production and staying out of the way



Schmitt

of our domestic farms. A dependable and accessible workforce is necessary to ensure our agricultural industry thrives, speeding up H-2A program applications is crucial at this time. I will be a voice in Congress for our local farms and work with federal stakeholders to eliminate delays in application processing.

3.) I remain committed to bridging the divide between rural and urban regions in our state. The Hudson Valley is home to many rural farming locations and urban cities. We have a little bit of everything here, all industries represented. We need a Member of Congress in the Hudson Valley who will be a voice for all people, I promise to be that voice. Rather than increasing global imports, we should be focused on domestic production and our local economies. American production and American-made products come first.

4.) As a conservationist, I believe our local farmers and agricultural community are the greatest advocates for protecting our resources and our land. With growing concerns about our climate, conservation and renewable energy become all the more important. I vow to ensure local farms and those in the industry are included in the con-

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Did you know?

Early voting for the General Election in New York will take place **Oct. 29, 2022 to Nov. 6, 2022.**

For more information, go to:
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NY-19 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Josh Riley (D, WFP)

1.) Too many farmers across Upstate New York are hanging on by a thread. Input costs are too high. Labor is too hard to find. Regulatory burdens are too onerous. The prices farmers receive for their products are too low. And all of that takes a huge toll not only on farmers' finances but also on farmers' mental health and well-being. Meanwhile, large agricultural interests continue to get bigger and more profitable, squeezing out small farmers and hurting consumers.

In the upcoming Farm Bill, Congress should aim to provide subsidies and credits to small farmers, address the massive consolidation and monopolization that is squeezing out too many small farmers and consumers, and invest in health-care and infrastructure in rural areas.

2.) As counsel on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, I worked on the comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2013 but died in the House. I support that bill's amendments to the farmworker visa programs to help our farmers access the legal, dependable labor they need. If Congress is unable to move a comprehensive reform package, I would sponsor bipartisan stand-alone legislation to advance the bill's farmworker visa provisions. Among the provisions I would include are:

- Creating a new multi-year farmworker visa and applying it to all agriculture activities, including the



Riley

dairy industry.

- Moving the farmworker visa program from the Labor Department to the Agriculture Department to leverage its expertise.
- Providing wage subsidies to any farmer operating in a state that requires payment of overtime wages above a 40 hour workweek.

3.) Market access is a huge challenge for so many farmers across Upstate New York, both because there are too few options to get to market and those that do exist are prohibitively expensive. Among the policy proposals I support to address these challenges are:

- Waiving tolls on roadways for farm vehicles and vehicles transporting food or agriculture products.
- Using funds from the recently enacted bipartisan infrastructure law to invest in rail transportation so it can be a more viable alternative to surface transportation for go-to-market access.
- Establishing regional food hubs to bring together local producers and local buyers, particularly institutional buyers, essentially creating accessible markets for both buyers and sellers.
- Creating a new class of CDLs for

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Marcus Molinaro (R)

1.) It all comes down to costs. Rising input costs force farmers to push costs onto consumers or to decrease their margins. Milk prices are regulated beyond their control and any input costs must be absorbed.

The Farm Laborers Wage Board's recommendation to lower the overtime threshold to forty hours was made despite ample evidence of the negative effects it will have. The overtime cap must be repealed.

Inflation is driving up costs too—from fertilizer to electric to diesel—exacerbating already slim margins. Fertilizer prices are high due to our reliance on foreign nations to produce chemicals like ammonia and nitrogen. We must consider clean energy options like nuclear and minimize solar impact on viable farmland and farmers that lease their land.

Steps must be taken toward addressing the high costs of labor and energy, and essential supplies, by relieving regulatory burdens and preventing bad policy.

2.) With the consideration of a Farm Bill next year, Congress must use this opportunity to build a consensus on H-2A visa issues. In Congress, I will seek to serve on the Agriculture Committee to ensure Upstate farmers have a loud voice during these deliberations. The worker shortage has led to increased labor costs and consumer price increases. More H-2A visas would ease the burden on farmers to find help and stabilize prices. Beyond that, granting



Molinaro

some visa holders permanent status would help industries like dairy which can't rely on seasonal workers. Small and large businesses across the country are facing worker shortages and there is a growing bi-partisan consensus to address it. In Dutchess, our county is a mix of rural and urban and I have worked to bridge that gap so that each may benefit the other. I will work with anyone honest and earnest about solving this problem.

3.) I was raised on food stamps. I know the Farm Bill from the food & nutrition side as well as the agriculture side. We can better connect those two items and ensure those receiving government assistance have access to fresh, local, and healthy food. Part of that means producing and getting food from rural areas to dense urban areas. Our young people have been pushed away from blue-collar jobs and this has hurt the agriculture and trucking industry tremendously. We must prioritize vocational and agricultural education to create pathways for blue-collar jobs for our children.

Over-regulation doesn't help either. I have joined Albany lawmakers in support of re-introducing 2% and whole milk in schools. This ban took

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NY-22 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Francis Conole (D)

1.) I think the biggest issues facing farmers is ensuring they can remain competitive with large, consolidated, corporate farms. To do this, Congress needs to ensure they can continue to access capital, that crop insurance is accessible and affordable, and that they have the labor they need to operate.

2.) Our immigration system is an area where Washington, D.C. has failed and shows our politics at its worst. Politicians on both sides have used this issue to score political points while our immigration system languishes, and one area this has really caused harm is with our farmers. We need to ensure that we have an efficient system for processing H-2A visas so that farmers can have access to the workers they need and workers can come here and earn a good wage. We also need to ensure we are not overburdening our family farms with compliance costs that large companies can more readily comply with.

3.) With changing consumer preferences, I believe there are real opportunities emerging for our farm-



Conole

ers, especially our family farms in Central New York. As a member of Congress, I would be a big supporter and cheerleader for Central New York farmers and agricultural products. A key factor in branching into new markets is to ensure reliable harvests and output so we need to do everything we can so our farmers can make that happen, mainly making sure our farmers are secure on their land and have access to credit and quality crop insurance.

4.) We need to ensure that our farmers are not being lost or harmed in the transition to zero-carbon future. Many family farms are much more environmentally friendly than their larger corporate counterparts. Ensuring that our family farms are able to continue to survive and thrive is crucial to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I will always have an open-door policy for the agricultural community to ensure they will have a seat at the table in the discussions.

Brandon Williams (R, Conservative)

1.) In NY-22 the new 40-hour work week requirements before overtime pay is required are devastating. We have a labor shortage in agriculture in NYS (and elsewhere in the US). The new pay requirements will drive costs even higher for farmers causing them to reduce hours for workers ... which in turn will push experienced workers to move to other states that provide better opportunities for their skills. Farming is already under tremendous regulatory pressure in NYS, fuel and electricity costs are high, and taxes are already high. These make farming even more difficult in NY-22.

2.) Guest worker programs have been successful and should be expanded. Allowing skilled seasonal workers to fill jobs and return to their families outside the US is a win-win.

3.) The CSA, farm-to-table, buy-local, and farmer markets movements have helped create markets for small farms. We have benefited from this in our own farm activities as a family. One of the biggest bar-



Williams

riers again is excess regulation in NYS that adds complexity and costs to farmers bringing their products to market. Many of these are state issues.

4.) Having reliable, resilient, affordable, and responsible energy is critical to our economy. As a nuclear engineer, I will work towards common sense solutions to our energy needs that lower costs for the middle class, businesses, and farmers. I oppose the Green New Deal's approach to climate change and am working on alternatives to address the rising carbon dioxide levels of our planet.

I am working with scientists on a program for natural carbon dioxide sequestration solutions that would positively impact farmers and create new opportunities for farmers to be part of the solution instead of being blamed for the problem of climate change.

NY-23 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Max Della Pia (D)

1.) No one issue seems to apply to all the farmers in the district. Loss of family farms is an often-voiced concern. I fear unless we support family farms, we will lose them forever. Beginning farmers need capital. Demographics show the average NY farm producer is over 55 years of age. Without help, younger people will be unable to carry on the legacy of family farms in the Southern Tier and Western NY. Congress can help by providing access to long-term, low-interest loans.

One other thing Congress can do to help small agricultural producers: reward family farms for their efforts to improve their land. Topsoil is a precious resource. It is estimated we lose about 1% of our topsoil every year. It seems we should incentivize our farmers to protect our soil by appropriate use of cover crops, landscaping, pesticides, and fertilizer. By doing so, an additional benefit would be to improve our nation’s wetlands.

2.) Immigration policy is currently one of the most divisive issues in our country. There are problems with our immigration system, and we need to fix them, but we should continue to open our doors to people from all over the world who want to join our great country. Anything less is un-American.

Even if the H-2A program functioned well, it would not meet our dairy farmers’ needs because it’s a



Della Pia

seasonal worker program. Dairy farming is a year-round, 365-day-per-year industry. There are migrant workers willing to sign on for a year or multiple-years-at-a-time to work in the industry, pay taxes and social security and send money to their home country. Congress would serve the industry well to create such a program and perhaps create a path to citizenship.

3.) This is a complex logistics, communication, and marketing problem. Agricultural products are often perishable, and no single small farmer has marketing, storage, distribution, and transportation capabilities to distribute and sell products without adversely affecting their efforts to plant, grow and harvest their crops. Small farmers do not individually produce the breadth and variety of what is needed by individual consumers, grocery stores, or restaurants.

So, despite the fact locally grown agricultural products are of generally higher quality (from a taste and nutritional standpoint) purchasers of these goods gravitate to larger producers through large distributors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Nick Langworthy (R, Conservative)

1.) Rising energy costs and inflation are crippling family farms throughout New York State and the country. The rising fuel costs have increased the price for farmers to operate their machinery and transport their products to market, as a result, many farmers are struggling to break even. Our country needs to unshackle our energy industry and allow for further exploration of energy resources right here in the United States. There is no reason we should not be an energy-independent country, I will push for policies to do that. As a Member of Congress, my top priority will be to restore fiscal sanity to Washington and put an end to the out-of-control spending that has given us out-of-control inflation.

2.) As you know, the economy of the 23rd Congressional District relies heavily on its farmers and its rural communities. I grew up in rural Cattaraugus County and worked for two Members of Congress who represented very rural districts, so I’m aware of the labor concerns of New York’s farmers. As a Member of Congress, I’ll work toward enacting sensible immigration policies that benefit our farmers while also ensuring America’s borders are safe and secure.

I would also add on the topic of labor that I am opposed to New York’s change to the labor law as it relates to farm workers, and I believe low-



Langworthy

ering the overtime threshold from 60 to 40 hours would be devastating to our farms. If there is an avenue at the federal level to combat this, I will explore it.

3.) Too often, high energy costs and insufficient and outdated infrastructure stand in the way of New York’s farmers being able to transport food and other products to suburban and urban markets. As a member of Congress, I’ll work with my colleagues in the House and also with our partners at the local and state level to make sure rural New York gets its fair share of infrastructure dollars. Just as downstate politicians fight for their region’s interests, I’ll fight for the interests of Western New York and the Southern Tier.

I also believe we need to look at policies that help our truck drivers and incentivize people to seek employment as a trucker. The shortage of truck drivers is only increasing the cost to get food to markets.

4.) As a member of Congress, I’ll oppose proposals like the Green New Deal. America’s farmers are our country’s original and truest conser-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

NY-24 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Steven Holden (D)

1.) The largest issue I have heard from farmers in NY24 is the outsized influence that Big Ag has over everything from the availability of land, availability of labor, what legislation is passed in D.C., to what crops are sown. The first solution that I will seek is ensuring farm bills, infrastructure bills, school bills are all required to have carve-outs that specifically target family farms and rural areas rather than being overbroad so that large corporations eat the lion’s share of the support.

2.) Migrant workers have become political pawns, used to rile up a certain segment of society. I will work to convince those in D.C. who are using laborers for political gain, that the safety and security of the United States hinge on the safety and security of our food production. I will work to ensure that the H-2A program has the funding and staffing necessary to operate as it was intended.

3.) I will take a two-prong approach to address this problem. First, we need to fix our trucker issue, by opening up CDL drivers’ restrictions for deliveries of perishable produce. Second, The Federal Farm to School



Holden

program needs to be expanded and fully funded.

Schools are open most of the year (some are all year) and have a need for at least two meals a day. There’s no reason why local schools can’t buy local products except that congress has turned a blind eye to our rural farmers. Oswego has a program that provides free bus rides to farmer’s markets and the farmer’s markets can now take SNAP payments. Implementing little endeavors like these nationally can help bring farms back into focus as the foundation of America.

4.) I will work with farmers to implement green initiatives that don’t bankrupt them. Agriculture is already a large part of the conversation, but big city politicians don’t listen. Our farmers need Representatives in Congress that will fight to advance the ideas and solutions created by the farmers themselves. I will be the Representative that listens to, and never stops fighting for, the needs of the family farmer.

Claudia Tenney (R, Conservative)

1.) Soaring costs are one issue I hear about frequently from the farmers I meet with across upstate New York. To address this, I am fighting to tackle the root causes: inflation and supply chain disruptions, which are being driven by reckless spending and naive energy policies in Albany and Washington. It is the worst impulse of career politicians like President Joe Biden and Gov. Kathy Hochul to think they can solve every problem by spending more or pushing additional Green New Deal policies.

I am also working on longer-term solutions to support New York farmers. This includes commonsense but overdue changes to our tax code, starting with the full repeal of the death tax, which uniquely hurts family farms. We also must safeguard stepped-up basis, which the Biden Administration has considered eliminating. Terminating this important provision would create yet another tax on those passing generational family farms on to loved ones.

2.) Our immigration system is broken – it prioritizes those who break the law while penalizing those who follow it. I have always opposed mass amnesty and other policies that en-



Tenney

courage illegal immigration. Among my top priorities today in Congress is to secure the border and finish the wall, which are national security and humanitarian imperatives. Congress must also come together to finally fix our nation’s immigration system, including by sustainably addressing the labor needs and liability exposure of the farming community. I support the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, though not perfect, it opposes mass amnesty and includes strong safeguards like a mandatory E-Verify system for agricultural workers as well as significant work requirements and criminal bars to protect farmers and preserve a safe workforce. Congress must do more to bring order to our immigration system in a manner that is compassionate, principled, and rooted firmly in our nation’s values and security.

3.) New York’s Upstate farming

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

HOCHUL

From Page 13

Tax Credit to offset the costs associated with overtime. Finally, I raised the Investment Tax Credit from four percent to 20 percent of qualified investment expenses on farms.

Q3: New York farmers depend on the use of a wide range of pesticides to protect their crops from insect damage and disease. Do you support efforts to restrict farm access to such products? How would you ensure the continued safe use on farms?

A3: My very first Executive Budget addressed this question. I doubled the funding for the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program at Cornell to help develop more tools for farmers to be able to produce food. IPM is about developing ways to manage pests in ways that minimize environmental, health and economic risks. New York should be leading the country in developing these approaches and I am confident that with these additional resources, combined with our State’s Land Grant expertise and leadership, we will develop more tools for farmers to deal with pests and diseases in cost effective ways that reflect the most current and cutting-edge science possible.

Q4: Farmers rely a great deal on the land-grant research and extension activities of Cornell University, as well as the State Colleges specializing in agriculture such as Cobleskill and Morrisville. How do you envision this system continuing in the future for the provision of practical research and extension activities to farmers and the general public and educating future generations of farmers and agribusiness leaders?

A4: We have some wonderful universities here in New York that are educating our young people to be part of tomorrow’s leaders in business who will make strong contributions to society. We have the best land grant university in the country here in Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and a correspondingly strong Cooperative Extension Program.

More than that, we need young people to be active and engaged in learning about agriculture, in addition to developing their skills. We need to continue to foster agriscience education programming in high school and below. We need to continue to grow our FFA chapters and encourage agriscience educators to engage with young people. This is an area of particular interest for me, and I’m going to continue to support opportunities for youth engagement, such as FFA and 4-H.

Q5: New York farms rely upon smaller, targeted programs in the Agriculture and Markets section of the state budget to promote and market New York products, perform applied research for innova-

tion and to work with farmers under stress. These programs have been and continue to be acutely vulnerable to state budget reductions. What are your views on providing appropriate budget funding for these programs?

A5: This year’s State Budget makes historic investments in agriculture and food production right here in New York. We recognize the importance of research and marketing activities for agriculture, as we committed \$52.9 million to various local assistance programs that provide specialized agricultural technical assistance, industry promotion, research, education, and workforce support. Funding for maple marketing, Christmas tree promotion, vegetable research, apple marketing, among other initiatives, are all vital priorities and we were able to make sure they received support.

On top of this support, the Environmental Protection Fund provided increases in Farmland Protection, Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, significantly expanded funding for Climate Resilient Farms to \$16.75 million, doubled the IPM program, and increased funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

We are proud to have addressed these funding priorities while still providing a fiscally responsible and balanced budget.

Q6: Transitioning to renewable energy sources is a large goal for New York State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Although implementing large projects, such as solar, furthers the state’s climate goals, and presents financial opportunities for landowners, it produces challenges to farmers who need land to grow crops and raise livestock. How do you plan to balance the opportunities found in solar installation and thus renewable energy while also protecting agricultural farmland and our greater agricultural food system?

A6: First off, solar is just one part of our renewable energy and climate change efforts. It is important to develop solar, along with other renewables, and to do so while we build out our electric grid to be able to handle this increased capacity. However, more to the question, solar installations can impact valuable farmland if not strategically located. This was a topic during one of my farm roundtable sessions at David Fisher’s farm in Madrid.

Commissioner Ball recently convened a Farmland Protection Working Group to recommend strategies and facilitate input from municipalities on ways to minimize adverse impacts on agriculture. The group is continuing its work and I’m looking forward to hearing their thoughts. I am confident that we will find the right balance between investing in renewable energy while maintaining adequate farmland.

LALOTA

From Page 14

ty – farmers on land and fishermen on the water – must be represented as we approach environmental conservation and renewable energy projects, like offshore wind farms. Impacts to the marine ecosystem and the readiness of the infrastructure these projects are connecting to must be considered in any thoughtful plan. As a member of Congress, I will work to bring farmers, scientists, and environmentalists to the table to discuss best practices, implementation, and potential assistance with costs where there is consensus in moving forward.

RYAN

From Page 15

and foresters to participate in carbon markets. I also support efforts in the next Farm Bill to incentivize greener new farming technologies and practices, from cover crops to digesters to water-efficient irrigation systems, we need to support actions that lead to cleaner environmental output.

MOLINARO

From Page 16

away healthy and filling options and pushed kids towards sugary drinks. This is just one example of lawmakers restricting the obvious and easy local food pipeline option for schools.

4.) As Dutchess County Executive, we have preserved over 8,000 acres of farmland and open space through a public-private partnership to purchase development rights. This injects cash into the farm operation, brings down assessment values, and

SCHMITT

From Page 15

versation. That is why I have begun roundtable conversations across the new New York 18th congressional district to hear directly from our local farm, what their greatest concerns are, how they can influence and assist with state-wide and nationwide conservation efforts, and how I can be a better steward for their needs.

Let your voice be heard at the NYFB E-Lobby Center:

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RILEY

From Page 16

drivers carrying produce to market, thereby increasing the supply (and reducing the cost) of that transportation.

4.) With Upstate New York’s farmers’ margins as small as they are, investing in conservation practices and renewable energy can be a significant and sometimes insurmountable financial burden. That’s a problem not only for farmers but also for the public, which benefits when farmers engage in best conservation practices (and forgoes those benefits when they don’t).

That’s why Congress must provide farmers direct financial assistance to reward farmers for undertaking these practices and making these investments. For example, I support a permanent increase in reimbursement rates for cover crops, and I support increased funding and support for the Cornell Cooperative Extension to bring the most innovative and high-tech practices to our local farmers. If we’re asking farmers to undertake environmental practices in the public interest, then the public should shoulder the costs of those practices.

guarantees the land is preserved forever. The federal government can provide funding to local municipalities to replicate this program and ensure the preservation of farmland across Upstate and the nation.

Upstate New York’s electrical generation is 92% emission-free coming from nuclear, hydro, and solar. We are practicing what others preach and we cannot unfairly punish our farmers for the failure of others to adapt. Farmers can act as conservation partners and provide land for clean energy production but must not bear the brunt of unnecessary agricultural regulatory burdens.

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ZELDIN

From Page 13

It is important we have experts in agriculture serving in policy-making positions in state government. We need state agencies to understand and advocate for farming. I will also ensure that my office maintains an open door for farmers to share their ideas and concerns.

Q2: It is no secret that the farm economy continues to struggle, with skyrocketing diesel and fertilizer costs, labor, both in New York and across the nation. What steps would you take to support farmers to help them continue to produce food to feed the residents of this state?

A2: First and foremost, lowering the overtime threshold for farm workers from 60 hours per week to 40 hours per week will further burden New York’s hard-working farmers and hinder their ability to get workers for their farms, and compete with other states for business. New York should have laws that benefit and help our citizens, not ones that hurt them and encourage people to do business elsewhere.

Whether it’s the supply chain crisis or the cost of inflation, energy, or more, the struggles of operating a farm have continued to be driven up. Think about the cost of utilities, the price of diesel – how much more expensive it is to transport these goods. This overtime rule will only add insult to injury and these are all costs that are going to be passed on to the consumer made up of everyday New Yorkers who are already struggling to put food on the table.

These farmers are still operating from the same pot of money before and after this overtime rule. That means they will need to cut hours, switch their business to less labor-intensive goods, move to those that are machine oriented, or pack up and start over again in another state that values their work. This rule is bad for New York and it’s bad for our farmers, and as Governor, I would immediately work to reverse the ruling and decision.

Secondly, the ill advised ban on the safe extraction of natural resources in our state is further causing a strain on the agricultural industry. For example, many farms use diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) as fertilizer. As you probably know, DEF is made of high-purity synthetic urea deionized water. Urea is manufactured synthetically by reacting natural gas with several other elements. By prohibiting New York from tapping into its own resources, they are hiking up the prices of fertilizer and other critical resources needed to run any business, but specifically a farm.

Q3: New York farmers depend on the use of a wide range of pesticides to protect their crops from insect damage and disease. Do you support efforts to restrict farm access to such products? How would you ensure the continued safe use on farms?

A3: New York has some of the strictest regulations in the nation. This rampant overregulation serves only to crush local businesses and families and drive them out of the state. The latest legislation (S. 8378-A/A. 9079-A), which allows local governments to further regulate pesticides in addition to the DEC and EPA, is a clear example of this mindset. This extraordinary expansion and decentralization is just another burden on farmers who will now have to deal with thousands of different local restrictions across their businesses and properties.

I strongly believe we must protect and preserve the environment. That stewardship goes hand in hand with protecting commerce in our regional economies where so many jobs and small businesses depend on family farms, scenic parks, clean water and wineries to attract visitors and economic growth. However, this must be done in a way that supports the agricultural industry, rather than knee-cap hard-working farmers who play such a vital role in our economy and the supply chain. As governor, I will work tirelessly to ensure that all impacted stakeholders are heard as we work to cut unnecessary red tape and develop more efficient, streamlined protections for our state’s agricultural industry.

Q4: Farmers rely a great deal on the land-grant research and extension activities of Cornell University, as well as the State Colleges specializing in agriculture such as Cobleskill and Morrisville. How do you envision this system continuing in the future for the provision of practical research and extension activities to farmers and the general public and educating future generations of farmers and agribusiness leaders?

Knowledge is power and research is critical in any industry to ensure that businesses continue to grow and become more successful. Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently supported funding for research through the SUNY system on a wide range of issues and topics, specifically partnering with Stony Brook University. There is also a

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Riverhead, which is in my Congressional District that I have worked closely with. As governor, I would

continue to support funding for research at educational institutions, such as Stony Brook University and other SUNY, CUNY, Community Colleges and private institutions.

I also believe there are incredible opportunities for SUNY, CUNY, and Community Colleges to partner with local businesses and farmers to help bridge the divide between education and employment. For example, local businesses, farmers, or other agricultural heavy employers could partner with colleges like SUNY Cobleskill and/or Morrisville to provide equipment, experts (professors), and career coaching for students going through an agriculture program. Once those students are finished with the program, they will have real-life experience, working connections, and employment opportunities.

Q5: New York farms rely upon smaller, targeted programs in the Agriculture and Markets section of the state budget to promote and market New York products, perform applied research for innovation and to work with farmers under stress. These programs have been and continue to be acutely vulnerable to state budget reductions. What are your views on providing appropriate budget funding for these programs?

A5: Millions of New Yorkers rely on the vital efforts of New York’s farmers for food each day. Failing to support New York’s farmers not only hinders their ability to succeed and compete with other states for business, but also sees increased costs passed on to the consumer made up of everyday New Yorkers who are already struggling to put food on the table. This has been abundantly clear the past few years with the various challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, supply chain issues, and inflation.

Unfortunately, New York has been plagued by an Albany-knows-best mindset that has failed to appropriately address concerns from all New Yorkers, including those whose livelihoods depend on the agricultural industry. The lack of support for our farmers has led to a ripple effect of a higher cost of living for not only farmers, but all New Yorkers who would very much like to choose to buy local, but can’t because our agricultural industry is not supported enough. As I mentioned earlier, the

governor of New York should actively work to serve all New Yorkers, and as governor, working with our farmers to ensure they have the resources they need to thrive in New York State would be one of my top priorities.

Q6: Transitioning to renewable energy sources is a large goal for New York State’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Although implementing large projects, such as solar, furthers the state’s climate goals, and presents financial opportunities for landowners, it produces challenges to farmers who need land to grow crops and raise livestock. How do you plan to balance the opportunities found in solar installation and thus renewable energy while also protecting agricultural farmland and our greater agricultural food system?

A6: First and foremost, I believe the Climate Act’s goals are not achievable without tremendous pain for people who can least afford it. The Climate Act is costly as it is and, without the infrastructure and technology in place around the state already, I’m afraid every day New Yorkers are going to bear the brunt of the ramifications. Instead of mandating New Yorkers use certain types of energy, they should give New Yorkers the choice to choose what is best for them.

I believe in an all of the above energy strategy, which would include safely tapping into our very own resources in the Southern Tier and other parts of the state, expediting pipeline applications, and encouraging renewable energy when it’s appropriate. Throughout my time traveling the state, I have heard from far too many New Yorkers about their concerns with certain renewable energy projects and how the state is not taking their concerns seriously. As governor, I believe it is of the utmost importance that the communication is there between the state and the communities these projects are proposed to serve. No community should have a project forced on them which will make their way of life worse. That is why I believe residents deserve to have weighted input in any decisions when it comes to implementing energy plans in their communities, including when it comes to renewable energy.



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This event is brought to you by Oneida County Farm Bureau and CCE Oneida County

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE OF NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

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Join us Tuesday, December 6th for a special one day conference focusing on the weather, business and market climate 10-15 years in the future.

Presenters and panel leaders will include:



Brett Sciotto, CEO of Aimpoint Research, will be our **keynote speaker**. Brett will explore the opportunities for Northeast agriculture in a changing world and how our farmers will fit into the larger global market.



Robert Duffy, former New York Lieutenant Governor and CEO of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, will speak on the topics of labor and regulatory issues.



Chris Laughton, Director of Farm Credit East’s Knowledge Exchange, will analyze the markets and trade issues for agriculture in our region.



Ben Houlton, Dean of Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who will discuss land use, environmental needs and what changing weather patterns will mean to growers in the region.



Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau President, special guest.



\$150 NYFB Members

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(Includes registration, breaks, lunch, & dinner reception. Reduced rate hotel rooms available)

Wednesday, December 7th New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting- Delegate,Business Session

Our State Annual Meeting is the culmination of a months-long grassroots policy development process. It’s where member ideas become Farm Bureau policies. Those policies will shape our legislative activities for the coming year and beyond. Delegates will debate and vote on public policy resolutions, state board candidates, by law resolutions & our business session. Delegates will also enjoy a membership breakfast and awards luncheon.



Visit **www.sam.nyfb.org** for the latest information for the conference, state annual meeting, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities.

Questions or sponsorship inquires contact:
Henry Talmege, htalmege@nyfb.org • Jessica Martin, jmartin@nyfb.org • Maureen Bartczak, mbartczak@nyfb.org

NYFB’S LEGAL REFERRAL SERVICE

NYFB’s Legal Service and Referral Plan for members is designed to provide assistance to members who have legal questions or concerns and are looking for attorneys who specialize in the area of law that matches their needs.

- Members who hire an attorney through the Legal Service and Referral Plan are entitled to two hours of free consultation over the course of one year.
- The attorneys offer Farm Bureau members a 15% discount off their fees.
- There is no cost for the referral program. Farm Bureau members are responsible for any attorney’s fees, disbursements, or any other costs they incur beyond the initial two hours of consultation.
- The member pays all fees due and owing the attorney for services rendered. The fee will be as agreed upon between the member and the attorney.
- Your family is included! As long as you are a New York Farm Bureau member in good standing, any family member qualified on your membership can call for a referral.

Call the NYFB Legal Department at 1-800-342-4143.
Have your NYFB membership number handy to start the conversation.

The Benefits and Risks of Adding Agritourism to Your Farm or Ranch

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



Agritourism is a great way to capitalize on the natural draw of your landscape, connect non-farm families to agriculture and create new revenue streams for your operation. But these benefits are not without risk. Finding the right agritourism for operation Adding a new agritourism venture to your operation starts by answering a simple question: What will work best? Consider the following:

- Your land, what you raise and any other resources that could contribute to a new attraction
- The time and money you can invest in an agritourism venture
- Potential hazards to visitors, the liability they create for you and how you’ll mitigate the risks and keep people safe

“It doesn’t always have to be a large venture that requires a lot of resources,” said Barb Neal, Cornell Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent and Horticulture Educator in Tioga County, New York. “Everybody has a specialty, so it’s just a matter of finding what will require the right amount of time and investment.”

Agritourism examples to consider

- Pumpkin patches and corn mazes. Fairly common around the coun-

try, they’re popular but can require a lot of time and labor.

- Farm tours and hayrack rides. Also fairly common, opening your farm to the public for tours and offering services like hayrack rides provide up-close farm experience. They often vary widely on cost, supervision and risk exposure.
- Bed & breakfasts. An unoccupied farm house or even a repurposed barn or other farm building offer farm guests distinctive overnight stays. Time and labor required are normally fairly high.
- Experiences. Ranging from “U-Pick” farms and Christmas tree farms to barn rentals for events like weddings, these also can range widely in cost, supervision and risk exposure.
- Classes. Weekly or monthly classes on things like jam- or bread-making can be an easy, low-cost option.

Minimizing the risks of agritourism

Before adding agritourism to your farm or ranch, think about the specific risks you and your visitors will face and how you’ll mitigate them. This includes simple things like trip and fall hazards all the way to specific risks around livestock, farm equipment and food safety. Conduct a thorough audit of these types of risks

and start by taking steps to minimize the hazards they represent.

“Check with your state for any agritourism protective measures and talk to your insurance agent for guidance on mitigation measures and how you can expand your insurance coverage,” said Neal.

Talk with your insurance agent

Farmers who offer agritourism activities need to discuss their specific types of businesses with their insurance agent. Usually, the policy that provides liability for the farm business does not extend to liability from other profit-making activities, such as agritourism.

Your local Nationwide Farm Certified agent can help you identify risks, implement safe practices and confirm you have the right agritourism insurance in place. Nationwide offers liability coverages that can be written as a package, in conjunction with a farm policy, to cover your agritourism ventures.

Visit AgInsightCenter.com to see the latest articles, videos and podcasts. While you’re there, sign up to receive our bimonthly AIC email newsletter.

*A.M. Best Market Share Report 2021.

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Four Ways Precision Agriculture will Reduce Waste, Increase Yields

Precision agriculture is a key component of the third wave of modern agricultural revolutions. It is defined as the science of improving crop yields and assisting management decisions using high technology sensors including examining fluctuations in the environment and the effects on production. The first agricultural revolution saw the increase of mechanical agriculture, from 1900 to 1930, permitting a single farmer to create enough food to feed about 26 people. The 1960s saw the Green Revolution with the advent of genetic modification, allowing a farmer to feed about 156 people. By 2050, technological advancements in precision farming estimate that a farmer will be able to feed about 265 people on the same acreage.

Historically, farmers were limited to the number of data points a single person could observe, and often by the time a farmer noticed a problem in production, it was too late to fix the damages. As agricultural technologies continue to develop, it is now possible to measure never-before monitored parts of the ecosystem and utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to interrupt collected data and prescribe a plan of action.

Leveraging advancements in technology, it is possible to create both high quality and quantity of produce, while significantly reducing waste. AI systems are constantly improving as it is constantly learning from every data point collected and analyzed.

Precision agriculture measures the full spectrum of available data. Soil health, temperature, oxygen content, air temperature, water quantities, sun totals, insects and pesticide use, slopes on the land, and even the vicinity to other farming operations. The age of soil, spatial variability, and even the carbon levels in different colors of sunlight, all influence the development of produce growth. By knowing where a plant is and where it should be, in a particular stage of development, farmers can make informed choices about the crops they are growing. This is a full spectrum picture, previously unavailable before recent advancements in technology, and is known as precision ag.

For example, by closely monitoring field health a farmer might find,

that a 20% increase in hydration would produce nearly twice as many crops. With soil, sun exposure, and nutrient levels already optimal, she sees the full picture and only added the required water, instead wasting time and resources on unneeded field amendments.

How is precision agriculture useful to farmers?

Number One: Sensors

Sensors can measure the soil nutrient, water, and air quality, aggregating this information in a cloud-based platform that recommends crop maintenance options to the farmer. This might point toward boosting fertilizer or irrigation to one section of property instead of the whole farm, saving the farmer money, resources, and time.

Number Two: Variable Rate Technology

Variable Rate Technology or VRT also known as variable rate applications, allows fertilizer, chemicals, lime, gypsum, water, and other farm inputs to be utilized at separate rates throughout the field. By linking data collected from geospatial technologies, drones, weather reports, stationary sensors, and other relevant data, it is possible for each plant in a field to receive exactly what it needs to thrive. Sprayers, fertilizers, and applicators can switch rate settings on equipment automatically or provide multiple passes over a certain area as needed.

By delivering only what a plant needs, input costs are drastically reduced allowing major savings for the farmer, while also reducing waste and contamination.

Number Three: Geospatial Technologies

Geospatial Technologies like global positioning satellites (GPS), global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), remote sensing, and drones all play an important role in identifying problems, optimizing resources, and maximizing yields. By utilizing satellite imaging to determine which area of the farm gets the most sun or employing drones to take time-lapse photos to see which plants are suffering and why farmers can drill



down on problem areas with ease. Drones can determine the benefit of services pre- and post-treatment applications while improving the accuracy and efficiency of the insurance claims process by computing areas of total loss after weather events using aerial maps.

Number Four: Post Harvest Rooms

With nearly 931 million tons of food going to waste each year and between 8-10% of global carbon emissions linked to unconsumed produce, according to a UN report, what happens with food after it is harvested is a big deal. Post-harvest rooms use sensors and AI to store freshly picked produce longer, assessing over 10 unique environmental factors and quantifying them with an AI system, which measures the produce's health in real-time and predicts when it will ripen.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and over-ripened produce in a shipment can destroy an entire batch within about 2 hours, but with around-the-clock warnings of produce spoilage, cool room operators have a window of opportunity to proactively stop widespread losses in the product.

Reducing ethylene, a gas that is the naturally produced ripening hormone of some fruit, diminishes shrinking and increases the value of fresh produce at its destination. Linking your room to an ethylene management system can further improve efficiency and automatization throughout the entire process of caring for your food supply. Utilizing real-time level reporting, operators know the perfect timing of fresh produce shipments.

A farmer's choices are complicated by global economic factors, weather, insects, and disease. While technology and agriculture may at first seem at odds with one another, it is their union that is promoting efficiency, yields, and sustainability throughout the industry. Learning how to employ these new technologies can be highly challenging, especially if you have been in the same business for multiple decades. As we strive to embrace what the farmer of the future looks like, remember the words of Alan Watts, "The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."

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News Briefs

2022 Census of Agriculture Details Announced

The USDA will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture to millions of farmers across the U.S. and Puerto Rico this fall. The census will be mailed in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November followed by a paper questionnaire in December. Farms of all sizes, both urban and rural, that produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022 are included in the census. The census is currently conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). By highlighting topics like land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, the Census of Agriculture tells the story and shows the value of agriculture across the U.S. In 2022, changes to the questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep, and updates to internet access questions. Learn more about the Census of Agriculture by visiting nass.usda.gov/agcensus.

RMA modifies Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro-Farm

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is improving two of its most comprehensive risk management safety net programs, Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and Micro Farm, making them more accessible to America's agricultural producers. This includes doubling the maximum insurable revenue under WFRP, now \$17 million, more than tripling the size of farm operations eligible for Micro Farm, now \$350,000 and reducing paperwork requirements for WFRP. Stakeholders have asked RMA to address complexities of the Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and Micro-Farm income limits and reporting requirements. Previously, WFRP required several years of Schedule F documentation, which was cumbersome and complex which led to a drop off in participation. In 2021, RMA introduced Micro-Farm which is similar to WFRP, but had a much smaller income cap of \$100,000. The program improvements are in direct response to feedback from stakeholders as RMA recognizes the important role these insurance options play for many producers, including specialty crop, organic and direct market producers. For more information about the modifications, visit <https://www.rma.usda.gov/News-Room/Press/Press-Releases/2022-News/Updates-to-Crop-Insurance-Plans-Broaden-Access>.

Support Agriculture Immigration Reform in the Senate

The Senate is currently drafting agricultural immigration reform legislation that would provide much needed relief and updates to agricultural

immigration law. It is critical that the legislation address the status of farm workers currently in the U.S., expand the seasonal guest worker visa program (H-2A) to allow for year-round employment, ensure wage rates are stable, and there is suitable time to workers to gain status. In 2021, the House passed H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which New York Farm Bureau supported. While the legislation is not perfect, NYFB is requesting that the Senate consider similar legislation that has slight modifications to address number of hours worked to gain status as a farm worker, increase the proposed cap on year-round workers, and a stable wage rate for both employers and farm workers. It is critical that the Senate continues the conversation on this important issue that impacts New York farmers every day. Labor and immigration have long been a priority for the New York agricultural industry.

Contact Sens. Schumer and Gillibrand and ask they keep the pressure on fellow Senators to draft and pass agriculture immigration reform. Send an e-lobby letter to the Senators by visiting <https://www.nyfb.org/engagements>.

USDA Announces \$72.9M Awarded to Bolster Competitiveness of Specialty Crops

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced it has awarded a total of \$72.9 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funding. The FY 2022 non-competitive awards were made to the departments of agriculture in the 50 states. The SCBGP funding supports farmers growing specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops. USDA's support will strengthen U.S. specialty crop production and markets, ensuring an abundant, affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops, which are vital to the health and well-being of all Americans.

These SCBGP grants will be used to fund projects that support the specialty crop industry by enhancing food safety, investing in specialty crop research, including research to focus on conservation and environmental outcomes, developing new and improved seed varieties and specialty crops, and improving strategies for pest and disease control. In addition, some projects will focus on increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops and improving efficiency and reducing costs of produce distribution systems. In New York, over \$1.3 million in funding will help the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) fund projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in the state and support specialty crop growers through marketing, education, and research.



TOMPKINS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Funds Raised in Tompkins County

Tompkins County Farm Bureau, county FFA programs, the Dairy Ambassador Program, six county school districts and Crossroads Bar and Grille recently held a food fundraiser. Crossroads owner Jay Dietershagen road his bike from Florida back to Lansing and raised \$14,000 for the school's pantry programs and another \$2,300 for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

Pictured are representatives of all the organizations, including Dairy Princess Abby Thomas, front left, Dairy Ambassador Jill Zengenfus, front right, and Jay Dietershagen, front center in black shirt.



NYFB National Affairs Director Lauren Williams in Washington, D.C.

Williams Testifies in Washington on Right to Repair Act

NYFB National Affairs Director Lauren Williams testified before the U.S. House Rules Committee on Sept. 21 in Washington, D.C. on the need for federal right to repair legislation. This would give farmers additional options to repair technologically advanced farm machinery rather than be dependent on the equipment manufacturers, expediting repairs and saving farms money. Rep. Joe Morrell introduced federal right to repair legislation (Fair Repair Act, H.R. 4006) that NYFB is supporting.

Her testimony can be viewed at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-repair>

Sweet Rewards

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau members received a county incentive for getting members. Those who picked up new memberships this year were each recognized with their own pie baked by membership co-chair Phyllis Couture. From left, Chuck Couture, Tom Graser, Nathan Blesy, Kevin Herman, Amy Jo Burroughs and Amanda Dackowsky.



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Adding Fungal Enzymes to Dairy Cow Rations Boosts Milk Output, Quality

Supplementing the feed of dairy cattle with enzymes from two funguses simultaneously has a positive effect on the animals' lactational performance, according to Penn State researchers, who studied the concept in an experiment with cows.

"Exogenous [originating from outside an organism] enzymes have been used widely in human and animal nutrition for decades" said study co-author Alex Hristov, distinguished professor of dairy nutrition. "But recently, lab research has shown that enzymes from *Aspergillus oryzae* and *Aspergillus niger* together might have a synergistic effect in the cow's rumen, promoting the activity of the microbial populations enhancing digestion of fibrous components in the diet."

For almost 20 years, Hristov's research group in the College of Agricultural Sciences has studied the effects of feed additives that might improve milk production and cow health and reduce the amount of methane cattle emit as a by-product of the natural digestive process, primarily by belching. Over the years, Hristov's lab even has evaluated unconventional dietary supplements such as the spicy compound in chili peppers, seaweed and oregano.

This 10-week study, led by Leoni Martins, doctoral degree candidate in animal science, involved 48 Holstein cows at the Penn State Dairy Teaching and Research Center. Some were fed rations supplemented with an enzyme preparation extracted from a mixed culture of *Aspergil-*

lus. The team then evaluated the cows' lactational performance, metabolism and digestion.

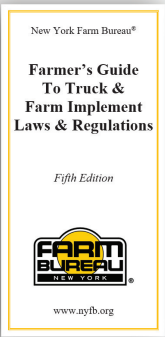
The researchers collected milk samples every other week and analyzed milk composition. They collected blood, fecal and urine samples regularly to monitor cow physiological responses to ingesting the enzymes.

The researchers, who recently published their findings in the *Journal of Dairy Science*, reported that compared with the control group, cows fed the enzymes tended to eat more, and their milk had higher concentrations of protein, lactose and other desirable solids. Overall, enzyme consumption seemed to have a notably positive effect on milk quantity and quality.

Jeff Mulhollem, Penn State University

New York Farm Bureau's Farmer's Guide to Truck & Farm Implement Laws & Regulations, 5th Ed.

New York Farm Bureau®'s publication *Farmer's Guide to Truck & Farm Implement Laws & Regulations*, 5th Ed., commonly known as the "Truck Book," is a resource tool prepared to assist farmers in understanding the myriad state and federal transportation laws and guidelines that affect their farm business. Additions to the fifth edition of our most popular guide are contained within text boxes and labeled "5th Edition Update" for ease of reference. There's new info on CDLs, farm plates, ATVs, Infrastructure Friendly Vehicle (IFV) requirements, lights and reflectors, and many more things important to our members.



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WAGE BOARD

From Page 1

ments. The organizations have continued to wage a public affairs campaign urging Gov. Kathy Hochul to reject the recommendation as well. This is the culmination of nearly two years of wage board hearings where farmers, farmworkers, and industry representatives testified about what a lower overtime threshold would mean to agriculture, the rural economy, and our food system. More than 70% of those who testified said it would make New York farms even less competitive, force them to reduce hours to control

labor costs, and would drive away critically needed farmworkers who said they would seek work elsewhere to get the additional hours they want.

Report Lacked Critical Data

Unfortunately, the report was not a full and accurate depiction of the facts and testimony gathered during the process, lacking significant economic data as well as detailed testimony from farmers, farmworkers, and agricultural experts.

New York Farm Bureau issued a statement saying, “New York State agriculture is a national leader in wage rates, human resource development, and safety training. Many of the farm labor protections in

“One thing we can all agree on is how valuable our employees are to the work of feeding our fellow New Yorkers ... Let’s just hope we are able to find enough employees once the threshold begins to drop. Our food security depends on it.”

David Fisher
New York Farm Bureau President

FOR MORE INFO:

President Fisher’s full dissent and the wage board statement is available online at nyfb.org on the “news” section of the website.

“No matter the outcome today or in the coming weeks, one thing we can all agree on is how valuable our employees are to the work of feeding our fellow New Yorkers. Farmers cannot do it without them, and we will continue to stand with them and do the best we can to provide our employees with good jobs and opportunities. Let’s just hope we are able to find enough employees once the threshold begins to drop. Our food security depends on it,” said President Fisher.

Other Legislators Weigh In

President Fisher wasn’t alone in expressing disapproval of the report. There was a large number of bipartisan members of the state legislature who reacted after the vote. Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair Donna Lupardo said the action would hurt the competitiveness of New York agriculture adding, “I am calling upon the federal government to address issues of grave importance to our agricultural economy including immigration reform and updating 1930’s era farm wage rules. While I strongly believe that farm workers deserve to be paid wages similar to other workers, a failure to address systemic changes will present insurmountable challenges for many of our farms.”

Sen. George Borrello who is the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and introduced legislation along with Assemblyman Chris Tague to abolish the wage board said, “Today, New York’s farming community moved another step closer to a tragic reckoning with the decision by the Farm Laborers Wage Board to officially recommend lowering the farm worker overtime threshold from 60 hours to 40 hours.”

New York Farm Bureau will let members know as soon as the New York State Commissioner of Labor issues a decision.

place exceed those of any private industry in the state. Yet much of this was also not included in the report. In the end, the report written by the Department of Labor justifies the wage board recommendation based on cherry-picked data and inflammatory opinions.”

President Fisher lambasted the report as well in his dissent that he was successful in attaching to the report after the other two members of the wage board, Brenda McDuffie and Denis Hughes, agreed to allow it.

He cited a number of areas that did not present a full picture of the facts or was simply false. This includes faulting the Department of Labor for not following up on its own labor laws to seek out what it said were issues of unfair labor practices that are currently illegal. The report also undervalued what farmworkers earn by not taking into account the limited seasonality of many farm jobs or the unique benefits like housing and transportation that are afforded to most farmworkers. It also unfairly compared agriculture to other industries like the hotel and construction businesses that have overtime at 40 hours.

“It (the report) also completely discounts the voice of the farmers simply because a majority wants to stay at 60. It barely touches on the testimony of how this will make our farms less competitive and how labor shortages are already a challenge and will only get worse if workers leave the state to seek more hours elsewhere. The facts cannot be ignored, even if the report does not give them their due diligence,” President Fisher said in his dissent.

Fisher Challenges Report

President Fisher also challenged the report’s references of historical racist policies to justify lowering the threshold even though the report cited no evidence or testimony of racial discrimination on farms. He said New York farmworkers have some of the strongest labor protections in the country, some of which go further than any other private sector industry, like automatic overtime on a seventh day of work and a mandatory day of rest.


New County Director Orientation Offered Oct. 26

Farm Bureau wants its members to volunteer with confidence. To do so you need to have a clear understanding of how NYFB is organized, what our mission entails, who you should become familiar with and why you are the person for the job.

Join NYFB County Managers and Training Specialists Todd Heyn and Tim Bigham, NYFB Farm Bureau

trainers from the comfort of your home on Oct. 26 as we delve into why and how Farm Bureau got started, what the organization looks like today and the challenges we face tomorrow. Learn how you fit into the picture.

To register for this training, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-orientation>



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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

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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 1066 dual remote , dual PTO 18.4 38 \$15,000; IH 06-86 tractor parts and IH 710 plow parts. 518-677-2854/ 518-222-6291

CASE 395 Compact Tractor – turf tires, 4k hours, new clutches. \$9000 for tractor and 72” mower or \$8500 without. spisakat@gmail.com or text 607-684-4492 for pics/info.

IH 720 4-Borrom Plow, Spring reset, good condition, \$2200, 315-374-9819

DOZERS/LOADERS

LOADER for sale. Great Ben 440 Quick Tach Loader used very little \$2500;

Grassroots Farmers Market

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 \$22,000 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

IH 510 GRAIN DRILL 18-disc w/Fertilizer – very good - \$1250; JD 148 Loader w/ 84” Bucket and Control Valves w/ Heavy Duty Supporting Superstructure Fits 20-30-40 series. Excellent \$3950; FORD 3-Btm 16” Plow HD Model 140 – Excellent \$1250. 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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HAINS BOX DUMPER/ Elevator Hopper \$5500. Roller table \$800. MARCRO-Plastic bins 34-FV \$80/each; DECADE AgrMAX boxes 1500lb capacity \$65. 914-804-4195

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

LEADER Evaporator RO Model #2. New, never used. Call 315-858-0368 for price.

BRILLION 16' Cultimulcher, exc. cond.; International 3250 fits 66 or 86 tractors; Farmall B tractor original, runs and drives, 30' 6" auger electric on

wheels. 315-335-0629

IH 475 disc 18', 22" blades \$4500; IH 315 cultimulcher 13' \$2500. LANDOLL shank type chisel \$1200; Case 400 5-bottom plow vari-width \$2500; Case 90 Loader \$800. 518-399-1893

BELLY MOWER model 914 fits a FORD 1520 \$500; CASE VAC \$1500; Gaggle 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

COMPLETE BOUMATIC cow ID system including two 3554142 power supplies, two 3554988 red ID control, two 3557197 antenna arch, one 3557377 2050 controller & +/- 1100 tags. 607-849-3291

VACUUM COOLER for sale, 3 pallet capacity, runs on 3-phase or generator. Overhauled and painted. VGC. \$80,000. 631-734-4219

MEAT GRINDER 1/2hp, gas weed trimmers, gas power washer, Clayton wood stove , 1977 Star Craft camper, makes great hunting cabin, make offer. 585-591-0795

MAPLE SYRUP Barrel Evaporator lined with fire brick, 55gal barrel, preheater, stainless steel pan. Saratoga Cty \$500 518-882-9635

MAPLE EQUIPMENT retirement sale – everything needed for a 220 bucket operation from taps to filter press. Livingston County. 585-226-2952

BEARCAT 950 Grinder/Mixer. Always kept inside. Lots of additional screens. Franklin, NY area. \$4,000 obo. Also have PVC silo pipe. Make offer. 607-829-5592

1981 GMC Floater, lime spreader. 3208 CAT motor, auto trans, 15' new leader spreader box, Ravens GPS \$21,000; NEW LEADER 30" x 18' belt-over chain. Apron chain. New. Still on pallet. \$4700. 585-451-2019

VALLEE Portable sawmills for sale. Built in Canada, welded steel construction. Wide range of length, diameter capacities and engine sizes. Valleeeforestryequipment.com for models and options. 845-389-3489

Kerian speed sizer, used for tomatoes, apples ,peppers etc. Three drops, adjustable from 2 1/4" to 4" \$8,000. Agritec 4 lane mechanical weight sizer, 3 drops. \$2000 pics available,845-532-4929

16FT 4 inch diameter auger including motor \$125; Two 5-cow steel stanchions \$750; JD silage wagon tandem wheels \$1500. 585-208-2355

IH 401 12' Harrow, IH 12' 370 Disc, MH 333 Tractor, IH 300 w/ Fast Hitch w/ 85% tires. Have some Cub implements: Snowplow, #144 Cultivator w/ side dresser, L38 Disc Harrow, 189 Moldboard parts plow. 518-852-5726

SPALDING COW VAC used 4 seasons, always indoors. \$3500 cash. 315-462-5178

GEHL 1085 chopper, processor, metal-alert, 4 heads, spout extension. 3 GEHL roofed and tandem wagons 2 at #970 1 at #960; GEHL 1540 blower. All shed kept. 1060 for parts. 315-269-0861

CLAY Barner cleaner, Approx. 250 ft. of chain with 12" paddles, 20 ft. wood chute left hand exit, 5 hp working motor and assorted parts. \$2200.00 Hubbardsville, NY call or txt: 518-526-0716

TIRES/RIMS

NEW REAR Tractor rim – size 12 wide 38 round. Drop Center rim \$350; Silo Winch with Gear Reduction – Make Offer. 315-782-6226

MOWING

2017 KUHN GMD 24 mounted 8' rotary mower, VGC, extra parts. Pictures

available or view at farm in Watkins Glen. \$6500 firm. Call/text 607-742-3657 or bchedzoy@yahoo.com.

DR PRO FIELD BRUSH MOWER, 26" cut. Briggs & Stratton engine, 14.5hp. Model 310000 \$2,000; Natures Comfort outside wood boiler. Model H3256 fire box is ¼" steel, heats 10k sq. ft. \$3,000; looking for used bolt on Kubota backhoe 607-776-4777

BAD BOY MOWERS – Commercial and residential at Bob's Bad Boy mowers. 6419 Middle Road Munnsville, NY 315-264-2781. Call for details. Mow with an attitude!

FLAIL MOWER. Mathews Company 8HDCP pull type hydraulic lift, 8ft. For info and pictures 716-258-8287

WAGONS

HAY WAGON, running gear, heavy duty, older but in good shape. Also, 15 old steel wheels, various sizes. In Greene County. Berny at 518-731-8880

2005 Pequea Feeder Wagon \$3,000. 607-962-1477

LAMCO Self-Unloading wagon with roof. 12 ton tandem with fast hitch pole \$2500 obo. Good working condition. Also have 1993 Mack dump truck vgc. \$12,000 obo. 716-707-2062

2 SELF-UNLOADING WAGONS 9x18. Good condition, PTO driven belt. \$2500 each. Dellwood12@verizon.net

HEAVY duty steak wagon, good for hauling grapes or any other farm use. 561-718-4247

PLANTERS/PICKERS/SHELLERS/WASHERS

OLD MILL Greenhouse flat seeder. Model 615-2 or 3 in reasonable working condition. Info@sabellico.com or 845-226-5943 ask for Randy-Matt or Ray

IH 18x7 5100 grain drill – single disk; JD 7200 MaxEmerge2 – 12 row vacuum corn planter – dry fertilizer; JD 327 Sting Baler with #30 thrower. All in good condition. Waterloo, NY. 315-283-8873

NEW IDEA 324 wide-row corn picker. Shed kept. \$2,000 716-949-9884

6 AND 8 INCH AUGERS for sale. 315-727-8347 or 315-430-4961.

GRAIN EQUIPMENT. 8in and 6 in augers. 1-1 Hp fan and 1-7 Hp fan. 20' x 12" wide rubber belt elevator. 315-638-0308

VAN MARK 2600 Washer/Peeler/ Scrubber used 6 roller unit. Uses: cider apples, potatoes & other vegetables. \$9500. 518-365-5347

NEW 2020 OXBO Sweet Corn Picker \$55,000 DELLWOOD12@VERIZON.NET

USED Powell/Durand Wayland apple grader and all associated equipment. Water dump, brusher, tables, tray packers, bin filler, automatic Haley baggers. Call or text Fred at 845-702-8239

MECCA Grape harvester, ex. Cond. Field ready. 561-718-4247

PLANTER Jr 3pt single tool bar carrier with vertical adjustments floating brackets 4 row planter \$650; Planter Jr. One row push drill vegetable seeder 5qt hopper w/3 seed disks 39 hole sizes “newish” \$375. 914-804-4195

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HESSTON 8200 self-propelled haybine. 14 ft sickle bar head, diesel engine, hydrostatic drive, air conditioning, radio, around 1700 hrs. and in fair condition. \$5000. 716-433-3370

HAY EQUIPMENT; Class 650 twin liner rake, very nice \$16,500 obo. Class 800 TH Tedder, mint \$16,500 obo. Kuhn 4220 TH new \$8500 obo. All low use, always inside. Erie County. 716-913-6313

NH 12' Haybine; Hesson 9' Haybine; Hay tedder/rake; 3 wagons, NH twine baler; New Cosmo 500 seeder; old potato

wagon. Much more equipment. Call for info. 585-352-4511

NH FORAGE HARVESTER, long pole, electric controls. Parts or use. 2 row corn head \$1500; JD 300 husker \$2500. All stored inside. 845-784-6423 call or text.

60 FT HAY CONVEYOR on wheels (not road worthy), has electric motor \$500; Tractor tire chains, 5 different size sets \$100/each, 5 Front Tractor weights, 50lbs each \$20/each. Please leave a message for John 315-662-7961

6710 CHOPPER 4 row corn, 10ft hay processor, 3 Miller pro rear unload wagons, Case 7130, 7110, retired. Call 315-771-1138

DION 1225 Chopper; Heston 1160 14' haybine; 2 Weaverline 430 hydrostatic feed carts. 607-988-6808

ROW MULCHER (new condition) Mill Creek Row Mulcher 506, PTO hydraulic drive. Max payload 4,200 lbs. Call/Text Terry 917-418-7953

USED 2-row JD level bed potato digger.. Includes cylinder, hoses and new jack. \$2500 firm. 36" potato grater w/36" Haines screen sizer \$1000 Both in good working condition. 315-269-3493

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SAMASZ Snow Blower. Tornado 250 Front or rear tractor (90hp) linkage. Blows to 98 feet or loads. \$6500 obo. 315-677-3332

ONAN Generator – 12.5kw, low hours. Saratoga Cty. \$350 518-882-9635

TANKS/BULK/WATER

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750 GAL Stainless Steel Double Walled Tank. \$1600. 518-365-4558

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JOHNSON woodburning stove. Oneida County 315-796-2109

YUKON WOOD OIL Furnace. Good condition. Glehnef Steel Tracks, like new. Electric Lazy Boy reclining chair, very good. 585-765-2500

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PARTS for John Deere 350c wide track dozer. Extension axle for wide track only. Goes between sprocket and final drive flange. 315-691-3514

USED grain silo for architectural salvage. 12-16 or 20 ft diameter, not too tall. 518-651-9322 or 518-497-6405 northviewqh@gmail.com.

CORN PLANTER 2 row 3pt hitch and Pumpkin seeder. 716-337-3162

HAY TROLLEYS from farms/barns in western, NY. Alan 585-451-2019

LOOKING for as much as a pickup load of BARLEY STRAW in small bales for pond algae control. Ray Lgourd@aol.com or 716-946-4487 call/text.

USED JOHN DEERE TE 4x2 Gator Electric UTV or comparable model by other manufacturer. Must be in good working condition. 716-868-4595 or trlovallo@

Grassroots Farmers Market

gmail.com

ROME Plow harrow. 6ft in good condition. 585-506-7300

WOODS BELLY MOWER with mounting brackets to fit a Farmall A tractor. Call Mike 585-872-5558 or email longmeadow84@gmail.com. Webster, NY.

JD 265 LOADER in working condition. 518-842-7348

2 wheel Gravley tractor with kohler motor. 716-782-4660

USED portable band sawmill with power carriage, any condition. With or without motor. 607-243-7359

IH HYDRO Tractors & Transmissions for parts. H-186, H-100, 1066, 3488, H-86, H-70, 656, 544, H-84. 585-548-2641. Byron, NY Ask for Paul.

FARMALL cub tractor with side mounted sickle bar mower in good operating condition or equivalent. schweizernur@aol.com

INTERNATIONAL Harvester Model 8 Field Chopper for parts. 315-598-2251 or 315-491-9041

VEHICLES/RV/BOAT/TOW TRAILERS

2007 FORD F550 Powerstroke diesel, 4WD, Switch N Go dump, exc. Cond., 5 speed manual, 34k original miles \$38,000 obo 914-949-4100 or gedneyfarmsnursery@gmail.com

1938 FORD 1 ton pick-up. True barn find. Stored over 45 years. Flathead motor, all original. Not running, very solid truck. \$4500. Suffolk County, L.I. 631-833-8800

1986 EAGER BEAVER 9DOW flatbed trailer, 22,000lbs GVW. Trailer is in excellent mechanical condition. Could use a coat of pain and new deck. Will supply new oak planks for deck. \$3500 914-582-1117

1986 MACK R Model - good farm truck - 300 HP 9 speed transmission; 44 thousand rears; good rubber. Located in Allegany, NY. Asking \$6,500.00. Call 716-378-8801.

JD 350 Track Loader, runs good, needs work. \$4500 OBO. 607-655-1636 evenings only.

1997 F-250 stretch Turbo-Diesel with 5th wheel hitch. 112k miles. Tranny reworked 4/5 years ago. Fair condition for looks – but works great. \$9500 obo. 585-451-1465

CAR for sale: 2008 FORD Edge 4-door 150k miles, beige, 6 cyl needs some repair on the front right side. 4 new tires. \$3,000 518-332-7364

Ford E-550 Se Cutaway Utility. 18’ Morgan Body, 42” Peake extension , bulkhead sliding access door, Maximizer pocket style roadside door w/window + a curbside door. # 4 aluminum underbody boxes. 147,000 miles. A Greenmarket truck \$12K 914-804-4195

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HANDCRAFTED SPIRITS from our family farm distillery make great holiday gifts! Free tours and tastings every weekend afternoon year-round at Old Home Distillers Co., 964 Campbell Road, Lebanon, NY 13332. 315-837-4123 or visit www.OLDHOMEDISTILLERS.COM

DRAGONFYRE DISTILLERY, Tours, Tasting Room and Gift Shoppe. Premium Artisan Whiskies in Very Small Batches. 1062 Leonard Road, Marathon, NY Route 221 East. Dragonfyredistillery.com 607-849-9600. Hours: Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5 or call for an appointment.

BLACK BUTTON Distilling is pleased to offer all NY Farm Bureau Members FREE Spirits Tasting and Factory Tour at our Rochester Distillery and Tasting Room; \$5 off any 750ml bottle of spirits purchased and the Room Fee waived for any events held at our Tasting rooms. Please stop in and see what NY Farmed spirits all are about. 85 Railroad Street, Rochester NY 14609 585-730-4512 or www.SevenFifty.com/BlackButton.

STOUTRIDGE VINEYARD & DISTILLERY in Marlboro, NY offers a 10% discount on all bottle purchases to Farm Bureau members. 10 Ann Kaley Lane, Marlboro, NY 12542. See our website for details and offerings. www.stoutridge.com.

FRONTENAC POINT Vineyard – Estate Winery offers a 10% discount on all bottles purchased to Farm Bureau members. 12 miles north of Ithaca on Rte 89, Trumansburg, NY 14886 Seasonal hours. 607-387-9619 www.frontenacpoint.com.

WEDDINGS/RECEPTIONS

RUSTIC WEDDING VENUE. Located in Plattsburgh, NY – Elfs Farm and Cider House offers a unique and captivating setting for your ceremony, reception and photographs. Email events@elfsfarm.com or 518-563-2750

GATHERINGS/EVENTS

EMPIRE ALPACA ASSOCIATION hosting alpaca fleece show at the fire station in Mecklenburg, NY (4495 Co. Rte. 6). Open to the public from 8am to 4pm and admission is free. Products from local alpaca farms available for sale. Alpacas may be present! 607-546-5717 info.

ORANGE COUNTY Farm Toy Show. Nov. 5, 9-3 @ Maybrook Senior Center. New & used toys, scale model farm layouts, pedal pull @ noon, silent auction, pedal tractor raffle. 845-695-1763

SUPPLIES

AG PRODUCTS

SPRINGWATER AG PRODUCTS. 8663 Strutt St. Wayland, NY. Helping farmers save since 2004. Farm tested with farm-friendly prices. Please call for a quote. Dave at 585-315-1094 or Penny at 607-759-0405

OILS/LUBRICANTS

BUY AMSOIL at wholesale prices. AMSOIL Preferred Customers save 25-30% off lubrication products shipped to your door! AMSOIL made in the USA, the first in synthetic lubricants. Call/text 607-226-1195 <http://ve.myamsoil.com>.

AG CONSTRUCTION/SUPPLIES

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT – 3,380 ft, 4-inch aluminum irrigation pipe, 90 degree elbows and T-fittings, 48 sprinklers, 237 Chrysler Ind. Engine irrigation pump, Kifco-Caprari PTO irrigation pump. Martintpltfm@cs.com

25,000 feet of 4” Ireco pipe and 60,000

feet of 2” Tico pipe. Risers are 18” with Rain Bird 11/64” tips. 4” pipe \$1.50/ft and 2” pipe \$1.00/ft. Dave 585-303-5410

NURSERY CONTAINERS Plastic 1-gal, 3,000 avail - \$.15/ea; Plastic 2-gal 3,000 avail - \$.25/ea; Fabric 5-gal 300 avail - \$1.00/ea; Fabric 7-gal 50 avail - \$1.25/ea. Emmerichtreefarm@gmail.com.

LANDSCAPE ROCKS – MISC PAVERS. Landscape rocks, fieldstone, flagstone, mis pavers. Will sell for 50% off cost; WIRE FENCING – 8’ PAGE Approx. 1,000ft, used only one year. \$1.00/ft; POLYHOUSE BOW PIPE Already bent to build approx. 18’ wide polyhouses. Enough to build approx. 100’ of houses and 3’ spacing. Heavy duty 1”x24’ galvanized. \$25/each. Jack 716-481-9530

FARM MARKET PACKAGING – Peck baskets, fiber quarts, corrugated & waxed boxes, poly & t-shirt bags, plastic & paper tote bags. Empire Drip Supply. 4544 Route 104, Williamson, NY 14589. empiredripsupply.com 315-812-1871

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT 3000ft, 5 in., Thunderbird pipe and wheels; 2000ft, 4in, Thunderbird pipe and wheels. 631-236-7010

GATES HOSE & BELTS: Hydraulics, Water, Air, Fuel, Fertilizer, Chemicals, Oil. Belts: Timing, Power Transmission, Conveying, V-Belts. Conveyor Belt Lacing & Skirting. Upson Maybach: Batavia, 585-343-6211, upsonmaybach.com

SHEEP&GOAT Fencing, rolled wire, round pens, gates, cattle/sheep/goat handling equipment. ALL IN STOCK! Good prices! good people! RidgeView Agriculture. 6414 Town Hill Road in Conewango Valley. 716-640-1330

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

STOP FYRE Fire Extinguishers. Ake.com. Statt’s Response Kit LLC. An independent authorized dealer. 26 Church Street. Honeoye, NY 14471. The ONLY NYS dealer! 585-489-9408 or toddstatt@hotmail.com.

FARMSTEAD CHEESE: HOLIDAY GIFT BOXES. We milk 20 cows to produce our cheeses in the Adirondacks. This year we are shipping boxes across the US! The options are at www.northcountrycreamery.com under the Purchase tab.

FARM TO TABLE goat milk gelato, goat cheeses and more. Contact hiddenpasturesdairy@gmail.com. Ship to your store or your door! Discount for Farm Bureau members.

WAGYU BEEF – 100% Fullblood Black Japanese beef, DNA-verified, all-natural, pasture raised, grain fed, USDA inspected, vacuum packed cuts available for pick up in Clarence, NY. www.NewYorkWagyu.com.

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MAPLE

MAPLE SYRUP. Gallons thru pints, reasonable and sustainably produced, will ship. See our website www.woodsteadmaple.com. 315-852-3351

HONEY BEES

RAW HONEY – by the pail or case. 60lb pail \$160, 24lb pail \$64, 12lb pail \$36. 5lb case (6 jars) \$115, 1lb case (12 jars) \$46. Call for shipping costs. Ford’s Honey Farm 1883 Castle Road. Newport, NY 13416. 315-891-3339

HONEY. Raw, Wildflower in 1lb., 2lb. jars. Also in ½ lb. jars as gifts. Medium amber, not filtered. Albany area. 518-861-8020 or stephenwilson282@gmail.com.

HONEY: light basswood, clover, knapweed mix in 60lb pail. \$166 raw or \$180 heated. Beeswax \$6/lb. Four frame local spring nucs \$125. johnstonsbees@hotmail.com.

POLLINATION SERVICES. Looking for year round spots for Beehives – Yates, Ontario & Wayne Counties. Bees & Beekeeping Supplies & Honey for sale. Retail Store in Canandaigua. Hungry Bear Farms. 585-412-8745 www.HungryBearFarms.com.

AQUACULTURE

HICKLING’S FISH FARM, Inc. Providing fish for stocking or wholesale since 1986. Check out our website at www.hicklingsfishfarm.com or give us a call at 607-965-8488

POND & LAKE – products, certified stocking fish, aerators, fountains, NYS DEC invasive algae and weed management. Smith Creek Fish Farm LLC. Support for all your aquatic environmental needs. www.smithcreekfishfarm.com 585-322-7805

HORTICULTURE

HAZELNUT AND CHESTNUT Trees for sale. Hybridized for nut quality and cold hardiness. Great for home, hunting, commercial orchards and erosion control. www.znutt.com or 607-310-1318

LOCUST TREES for sale. Make good fence posts. You cut. 716-984-0085

FORAGE AND TURF GRASS Seed – straights and blends, bluegrass, ryegrass, clovers, timothy, fescues, cover crops, winter ryes, wheat, peas & oats, pasture, graze, wildlife mixes and many more. Bulk vegetables and Flower Seed. Page Seeds. 607-656-4107

QUALITY FRESH GARLIC. For fine culinary use & select seed. No herbicides/pesticides used. German white & red available. Will ship. 518-827-4544 or sammonsgarlic@gmail.com.

GARLIC for sale. Music, Northern German White, Softneck, Elephant, Siberian, German Red & more. 4 Guys Garlic. Certified Organic. 585–638-6461

GARLIC – German White. Exceptional size. Seed \$12/# over 100# \$11/#. Eating \$8. Wilson, NY 716-523-9951

SPRUCE TREES, POTTED. 2’ \$19 each; 3’ \$29 each; 4’ \$39 each. Also large Fraser & Balsam trees for making wreaths. Spruce Run Tree Farm. 607-936-4737

WREATH MAKERS we have balsam trees for sale for brush. 315-336-0477 leave a message or molliemoram@yahoo.com with subject line “Wreath Brush”.

CHRISTMAS TREE Seedlings and transplants, all kinds. Limited supply. Landscape trees, all sizes. Spruces, firs, some timber types. Treehaven Evergreen Nursery. 716-652-4206 leave message.

OPEN POLLINATED CORN SEED. Silage, Grain, Wildlife plots. Available Cert. Organic. Early varieties. Vast selection including Keuck Early 75 Day, Wapsie Valley 85 day, Dublin 87 day MN (13) 87 day, Silver King 100 day, Golden Bantam Sweet corn, Black Jack popcorn and Japanese Hulles Popcorn to name a few. Green Haven Open Pollinated Seed Group. 607-566-9253 www.openpollinated.com.

TIMOTHY SEED for sale. Good and clean \$70/bushel; \$65/bushel for 10 bushels or more. Also medium red clover seed, good and clean \$120/bushel. 315-536-8848 or 315-694-0278.

LOOKING for spent grain? Call Red Hawk Brewing at 315-491-5158

WANTED! Wholesale grower looking for surplus nursery stock 5-10ft for our digging. Blue spruce, White spruce, Norway spruce, Serbian spruce and Concolor fir wanted in the ground. We are looking for quality trees full to the

ground. Contact urtzsevergreens@gmail.com or 315-597-6121

PLACE your order for our 2022 crop consisting of Comet, Centennial and Michigan Copper Hops. We have been in business for over four years. You may get details by giving us a call. Place your order by phone or email. Brian Ball0218@gmail.com 585-301-2043 or Elaine Basketmom17@gmail.com 585-576-4217.

EVERGREENS FOR SALE. Spruce “Engalmann”, 16 trees – Grade A. 15-18’ tall with 8” caliper \$30.00/ft; Pine “White”, 12 trees – park grade. 16-18’ tall with 10” caliper \$21.00/ft; Healthy trees growing in quality topsoil in CNY. Purchaser will dig and transport. Clear & easy access for digging and loading. S.E Schaal Farms 315-952-5243 or scott@huntersspringslandscape.com

EVERGREENS WANTED! 5’ to 18’ Norway Spruce, White Spruce, Serbian Spruce and Arborvitae. Scott@forevergreensrus.com or 607-227-3500

WANTED TO SELL planted pine and spruce and about 10 mature hemlock to clear cut. New Berlin, NY 413-530-1108 deg11171943@icloud.com.

WANTED TO BUY. Evergreen trees, spruce, pine, Norway spruce, white spruce, white pine. 10 to 15ft. Capital district. Area. 518-339-3240

WHOLESALE perennials – bare root and potted (European Ginger, Canadian Ginger, Ostrich Fern, Variegated Solomons Seal) Email: billsplants@optonline.net or (631) 924-1513. Deliveries available.

NOFA certified organic potatoes. Reds, Yukon’s, Fingerlings, Huckleberries. While they last. Call Mike at Tamarack Hill 607-859-2394

PURPLE raspberry bushes, bare roots–25+. Free - but you help me dig them up. Lyons/Sodus area. (text/call) (973)303-6295, dotdotdash2@spectrum.net

AG LIME/FERTILIZER

POULTRY MANURE. \$15/yard. Pick up or delivery. Analysis available. 845-482-5464 Dan.

SAWDUST/WOOD PELLETS/BEDDING

SAWDUST \$15/yard @ the Mill. 607-687-1539 Robinson Lumber LLC, Owego, NY.

SAWDUST Delivered or Picked Up. LJ Valente Inc. Greater Albany area. Located in Averill Park. 518-674-3750

ANIMAL BEDDING. Fresh clean shavings, bulk or bagged. Delivery available, price based on amount and location. Averill Park. 518-256-8262 or bcffarms157@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE FOR SALE. Overlooking Canandaigua Lake. 3bd, 2 ba on 4 acre lot. Close to horse racing, gambling and fishing. In Wayne County on State Route 21. 607-776-4777

FARM. Bayport, Long Island. Owner retiring at 78yrs old. Farm, Store, Agricultural property. Chicken eggs, hydroponics lettuce, annuals, vegetables and flowers. Greenhouse area Approx. 16,000 sf. Farmhouse with enclosed front porch, foyer, living room, kitchen, dining room, 2 bath, 4 bedrooms. Outside deck enclosed spare room. 1 bedroom cottage with 1 bath and living room used as storage area currently. 4 car detached garage. 631-472-0531 John for more info.

UPSTATE NY, TIOGA COUNTY, village of Spencer. 3 bed, 2 full bath, 1st floor bedroom and bath. Freshly painted, all new windows, appliances, doors, well-maintained large yard with chain link fenced back yard. Move in ready!

Grassroots Farmers Market

\$159,900. MLS# 318671 Call/text 607-215-2646. pansy@htva.net. Pansy Foster, Laurel Properties.

290 ROLLING ACRES in town of Warwick, outside village of Warwick; great potential for haying, orchards, livestock. Four small houses on property; zoned Agricultural. 65 miles to NYC. Chris at 845-986-7314

242 ACRES FORMER DAIRY FARM with FARMHOUSE, BARNs, PONDS and TROUT STREAM. Tompkins County. Finger Lakes Region. \$849,900 Brian Johnson 607-280-1058 Lic. RE Salesperson. nylandquest.com

DAIRY FARM in Western NY. 1600 acres: BEAUTIFUL AREA. LARGE dairy housing, 5 yr old milking system: LIKE NEW. 4th generation farm, need to retire. Serious inquiries please. Email MCDidas@gmail.com.

WE'RE RETIRING. Farm Lease or sale, part or whole. Picturesque view, 330 acre upstate NY fruit/vegetable farm. 15 minutes from Albany, retail market/u-pick/CSA/farmer markets, ponds, springs, greenhouses, cider mill, outbuildings, equipment, houses. www.kristysbarn.com.

North Country Farm! Nearly 560 acres includes an existing 4-bed country home, free stall barn, double 4 parlor, machine shop. Approximately 200 acres is open fields. More than 7,000 deeded road frontage. Bordering Beaver Creek State Forest. For more info Call Allen at 315-374-1032 or email Canaanrealtyny@gmail.com. Online at NYLand.forsale. MLS# s1417651

AG BUSINESSES

RETAIL NURSERY & Christmas Tree Farm. 22 acres, house, barns, shop. Elma, NY. Very busy residential/commercial area, profitable for 35 years. Another farm provides inventory. Treehaven Evergreen Nursery. 716-652-4206 evenings best.

TREE & SHRUB Care. Nassau County. 230 Customers Spray Programs Feeding Well Est. 2018. Hino 3 tanks, 2 Hose Reels. Retiring. 516-796-8363

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Agritourism/Farm Market/Garden Center on 7 acres on Long Island, NY 11901. Highly profitable with 20yr clientele. U-pick, private events, farm café, produce, grocery, plants. Amazing retail frontage location. Building with land for lease only, for sale in future. Qualified buyer has \$255k for down payment. Mel Vaz 631-767-0157 melvaz@vestedbb.com

REAL ESTATE BROKERS

97 ACRE EQUINE RANCH with FARMHOUSE, BARN, FIELDS, PONDS and TROUT STREAM. Great HOMESTEAD! Rensselaer County. \$629,800. New York Land Quest. Scott VanRoy 518-369-0487 Lic. RE Salesperson. nylandquest.com

BUYING OR SELLING LAND? We have more than 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE with land, farm, acreage, waterfront, equestrian, commercial and residential sales. Contact the LAND EXPERTS at Canaan Realty for your confidential conversation 315-682-4500 or Canaanrealtyny@gmail.com. Brought to you by Allen Olmsted, Real Estate Broker, Owner. More info available online at newyorkland.forsale

DAVID ZILKER, Associate Real Estate Broker. ERA Team VP Real Estate. Specializing in Residential, Commercial, Acreage and Farmland Real Estate. 716-474-5859 or 716-496-5661 Dave. Zilker@ERA.com.

EMPLOYMENT

SHOW HORSE CARETAKER and/or Trainer. Housing-utilities and compensation based on skill and experience level. Shows and home. Jan 518-756-9777 or 518-466-5342

SEAWAY RENTAL CORP – Watertown, NY offers full-time position(s) with salary range \$32-52,000/yr, based upon applicant experience. The job requires competent knowledge in gas and diesel engines. These jobs offer paid holidays, paid vacation and retirement/healthcare plans. Applicants may stop in for an application, e-amil a resume to seawayrental@msn.com or mail resume to 25177 NY State Route 3, Watertown, NY 13601

CUSTOM FARMING Operation in WNY looking for full-time, part-time and seasonal equipment operators and truck drivers. Call or text 716-474-3739 email stacycorcoran@gmail.com.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES with Sign on Bonus. CNY’s premier design/build firm in landscape construction is hiring. If you love the outdoors and are looking to join a professional company, qualified applicants can contribute to a growing co. We offer 40+ hrs a week, benefits, internal advancement and a paycheck well above minimum wage. Go to HSLC. CO and click on the red “Join Our Team” button to learn more.

HOP FARM MANAGER. The Bineyard located in Cazenovia, NY (Madison County) is looking for people to assist with commercial hop production. March to November. Farm experience and ability to work independently required. Please email chad@thebineyard.com for more details.

KREHER FAMILY FARMS Clarence, NY location is seeking a Farm Manager to manage our egg production area. Animal husbandry and management experience required. Dairy experience is welcome! Apply online at www.krehereggs.com or call HR Manager (Brook) at 716-759-6802

MAPLE FARM - seeking experienced sugar maker to manage tapping and syrup production at 3,000-tap maple operation near Rochester. Seasonal position with housing provided. Please contact joe@kettleridgefarm.com.

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.

CANTICLE FARM, a Community Supported Agriculture Farm in Allegany, NY seeking experienced full-time Executive Director/President. Send letter/resume to office@canticlefarm.org, attn: Shauna Kessler, subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT APPLICATION. Full description at http://canticlefarm.org/employment.html.

SMALL Chautauqua farm market with B&B opportunity. Looking for a partnership in the venture. 716-680-2211 for details.

CO-VALE HOLSTEINS Preble NY seeking an assistant crop manager with a passion for great cows. This is a 600+ dairy with 1200+ acres. Brad at 315-729-3220

STEWARDSHIP position at Genesee Valley Conservancy for conservation minded individual. Successful not-for-profit based in Geneseo working to conserve habitat and farmland in Genesee Valley. Full-time with benefits. Visit website!

FULL/PART TIME – Breeding Farm position. Weekends, must have experience with some aspects of horse care including feeding, turning out, holding for blacksmith/vet, mucking stalls. Patience is required as you will be handling mares and foals. Driving tractors and working farm equipment abilities would be helpful. Must be punctual, dependable with neat and organized work habits. Must have reliable transportation to/from workplace. Good references required. No riding involved. Great pay for right person, up to \$20/hr. Cambridge, NY. Please provide contact information to 518-677-8265

LARGE HORSE FARM seeks person

or couple to maintain property. Mowing, fence, hay making. pasture maintenance. Good Salary, Housing, Health Ins. and year end bonus. Contact stonewallfarm@aol.com or 914-248-5538

NURSERY FARM MANAGER Bridgehampton NY Long Island. Horticulture degree required. Pesticide Application License or willing to get. Be able to operate equipment and install/maintain irrigation. 2+ years growing landscape nursery stock . You will Manage a crew of 3+ people along with inventory management. Integrate proper health management program. Full time with benefits. Hampton Yards. 631-726-4400 for more information.

SERVICES

WINTER STORAGE. Car, Boat and RV. \$12/ft. Cambridge, NY 518-321-4033

DANS ELECTRONIC REPAIR Service. Repair vs replace. I can repair Boumatic, DeLavale, Westfalia and Surge, Muller Refrig controls and most circuit boards. Email circuitfixer@usa.com 406-590-7764

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AUCTIONS. Reynolds Auction Co. can help with all asset liquidation including farm, horticulture, commercial, restaurant, vehicles, estates, antiques and real estate. www.reynoldsauction.com for upcoming auctions. 315-597-8815

CHERRY VALLEY VETERINARY Associates announces Dr. Erika Osborne joining our practice. We are now accepting new clients in need of large farm animal services. 315-858-2136 Serving Otsego, Delaware and Herkimer Counties.

PAX OUTREACH is a division of Pax Realty – Joyce June, Broker. Use local labor. We are building intentional communities for farm workers in mobile home parks. Let’s talk. 607-438-8987 or PaxOutreach@outlook.com.

PATHSTONE’S Farmworker Housing Grant for Genesee, Livingston, Wyoming, Seneca, Orleans and Ontario Counties is open. Grant of up to \$2,000 to repair existing farm labor housing. Contact Susan Kwik for an application 585-261-1779

NY FARMNET – FREE confidential, on-farm consulting to any NY farmer or agribusiness professional. Call 800-547-3276 for help with business and succession planning, communication, stress management, financial analysis, and more. www.nyfarmnet.org

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ATTENTION FARMERS!!! Boost your corn and soybean yields with these user-friendly, tested and proven products since 1971. Just add to your current system, no changes needed! 315-857-6200

AG ACCOUNTING/TAX SERVICE

EQUUS ADVISORS offers virtual advisory, bookkeeping, payroll and tax services to growers, processors, veterinary & equine businesses across NYS from our offices in Cortland/ Ithaca, NY. 607-275-5700 EquusCPA.com.

DERMODY, BURKE & BROWN, CPAs serves agribusiness clients in the traditional areas of auditing, accounting and taxation, and a wide array of additional services (payroll, business valuations, Custom Accounting Solutions, ect.) 315-471-9171 or info@dbbllc.com www.

dbbllc.com.

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AG & ENGINE REPAIR

WIRING HARNESSSES &harness repair for farm tractors and other machinery. Custom made for restorations or repair. www.wiringharnesses.com or agriserv@rochester.rr.com. 716-937-6618

MOBILE WELDER. We repair damaged structures, machinery and equipment. Proudly servicing Chenango and surrounding counties. 10% discount to NYFB members. McKray Welding. 607-888-1105

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AG LEGAL SERVICES

NYS AG & MEDIATION PROGRAM – Looking for a way to manage farm family or farm business conflict? Available every county in NY. Call for free, confidential consultation. 1-866-669-7267. www.nysamp.com.

AG BUSINESS AND ESTATE PLANNING Farming is unpredictable. Are you prepared? Harris-Pero & Botelho, PLLC is ready to help you plan your farming family’s future. Contact. 518-860-5668 or info@saratogawills.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

ANNE PHINNEY author of Finding My Way to Moose River Farm, a memoir about a happy life spent with extraordinary animals is available for public speaking engagements. mooseriverfarm@gmail.com or 315-369-3854

“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

SWARTZ Vis-à-vis in excellent condition. \$6500. 315-346-1482

Eligible Policyholders to Receive 40% Dividend

NYFB Safety Group 486 was pleased to announce a 40% dividend once again for eligible policyholders because of continued strong performance of the group. Many have already received their check from NY-SIF, the insurance carrier for Safety Group 486. This year's dividend represents over \$8 million in returned premium for participating in the Safety Group. Included is an additional 5% added to the upfront discount for the next renewal, increasing the discount from the standard 20% to 25%.

If you are a current policyholder and have not yet received your check for the 2021 policy year, make sure that the audit is completed. If the audit is not done or there is an estimate for last year, the dividend will not be



Workers' Comp
Corner

By Henry Talmage
htalmage@nyfb.org

issued until the situation is resolved.

In other news, New York State will withdraw from the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) rating platform effective October 1, 2022 and will be implementing a new rating plan to calculate experience modifiers (ERM).

What does this mean for employers in NYS?

- It means that all employers will now have an experience rating or

modifier applied based on their individual claims history, no matter the premium level.

- The new ERM will apply to NYS employees only; if you have employees in other states, NCCI will still apply for the premium/claims experience in those states.
- The new plan is to incentivize safety and reward employers with better than expected claims as well as apply higher ERMs to employers

with higher than expected claims.

- A cap limit will be used to protect against overly harsh ERMs as well as a split point variable based on the size of the company to 'even' the playing field between smaller companies and larger companies.

For more information, go to www.nycirb.org and check out materials under Experience Rating Transition.

Workers' compensation Safety Group 486 policyholders will once again see a substantial rate decrease averaging 14% for 2023 when their policy renewals are issued in mid-November. The rate reductions vary by class code but in all, 17 of the 20 class codes underwritten by the group will decrease. With the ever-increasing costs of doing business in New York, this is a small win for our agricultural employers.

If you're not yet with the NY Farm Bureau Safety Group 486, contact our office to get a quote at wcinfo@nyfb.org or at 1-800-342-4143. If you prefer, contact your agent and ask them to get a quote from SG 486.



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BOND ACT

From Page 1

needs of the agricultural non-point source pollution control program.”

New York Farm Bureau policy also,” ...recommend(s) that bond issues should only be for specific capital investments, not used for operating or maintenance expenses.”

Both of these policies are supported by the proposed Clean Air, Clean Water, and Green Jobs Bond Act for New York.

One last policy speaks to the process for voting, “We believe that bond issues should be presented to the voters as individual components, each judged on its own merits.” In case of this particular bond act, this is not the case.

It is imperative that New York Farm Bureau members turn out to vote their conscious in elections and in response to bond acts. This proposed Clean Air, Clean Water, and Green Jobs Bond Act for New York for the most part meets the standard of New York Farm Bureau's policy and would certainly help farmers with critical (and required) water quality projects, help to establish on-farm practices to protect against climate change and protect farmland. However, voters must also be comfortable with taking on over \$4 billion in new debt for New York State.

In the end, the most important thing is to make sure you vote on Election Day in November!

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One-Million-Pound Milestone Reached in Food Waste and Donation Initiative

NYSDEC
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Feeding New York State, the state association of New York’s 10 Feeding America member food banks, recently announced that a total of one million pounds of food was donated to hungry New Yorkers as part of the ongoing implementation of the State’s Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law. This significant milestone is one of several benefits of the law as DEC builds on efforts to reduce waste and climate-altering emissions caused by landfilling, while providing quality food to New Yorkers in need.

“DEC’s food waste recycling efforts are making a difference both in the lives of those in need and in the ongoing fight against climate change,” DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said.

Feeding New York State Executive Director Dan Egan said, “We in New York live with a paradox of food supply. New York’s farms and processors create enough high-quality food to feed everyone, and our food is so abundant that we throw out 40 percent of all of it. At the same time, three million New Yorkers live in fear of hunger. Our hungry neighbors live in every part of the state. Hunger in the midst of plenty is unjust. It is economically unsound. It is environmentally absurd.”



Feeding New York State received funding from DEC through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to embark on a mission to dramatically increase food donation from large food businesses beginning in October 2021.

The New York State Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law continues to see more food managed sustainably and diverted away from disposal from the state’s largest food-related businesses. As outlined in the draft Scoping Plan for the State’s climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the release of methane from the breakdown of organic waste in landfills is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emission in the waste sector. Actions to reduce landfilling of these organics are critical to achieving New York’s climate goals.

Feeding New York State received funding from DEC through the Envi-

ronmental Protection Fund (EPF) to embark on a mission to dramatically increase food donation from large food businesses beginning in October 2021. In under a year since this work started and barely eight months since the law took effect, Feeding New York State surpassed one million new pounds of food donated due to their efforts and ongoing compliance with the law.

DEC also announced a new agreement with the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) to provide additional technical assistance to businesses interested in sustainably managing excess food and food scraps to further reduce the amount of wasted food.

COMPTROLLER

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Many of our farms face significant challenges to their bottom line, making it important for the state to ensure that this sector continues to thrive.”

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, milk is the

state’s largest agricultural commodity, ranking fifth nationally in sales. New York is also among the top producers of many other products, including other dairy products, apples, maple syrup, wine, and grapes, and roughly 9% of the state’s agricultural receipts come from crops grown for animal feed. According to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, there are over 33,000 farms in New York with nearly

23% of the total land area in agricultural use.

DiNapoli’s report noted that much of the income earned on farms recirculates back into the farmer’s community. In addition to local taxes and the wages paid for farm workers, this includes supporting a variety of local businesses and services, making farming an engine of their local economies.



Dec. 6 Conference Will Focus on Farming’s Future


The NYFB State Annual Meeting Dec. 6-7 in Buffalo NY is fast approaching and there are some exciting changes in store.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, NYFB will be hosting a special one-day conference, “Focusing on the Future of Northeast Agriculture”. Attending will be innovative farmers, agribusiness leaders and agricultural policy leaders from across the Northeast. The conference will look at the weather, business climate and market climate 10-15 years into the future.


Wednesday, Dec. 7, the NYFB State Annual Meeting business and delegate session will take place. At this meeting voting delegates will receive reports, conduct elections, consider bylaw resolutions and conduct other business of the organization as has been done in the past. The State Annual Meeting is also the culmination of a months-long grassroots policy development process.

The decision to split the State Annual meeting into two meetings was made to expand the conference topic and attract a wider audience of agricultural thought leaders. It was also to make the business and voting delegate session more focused and efficient. It is expected that this new format will be utilized over the next several years with a different conference topic each year.

For more information about the meeting, please go to:
<https://sam.nyfb.org/>



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RENEE ST. JACQUES/NYFB STAFF

Legislators, many from the New York City area, visited farms in the Utica area during a farm tour on Sept. 23 hosted by Assembly Member Marianne Buttenschon.

Lawmakers Host Legislative Farm Tours to Bridge the Urban-Rural Gap

By Steve Ammerman
sammerman@nyfb.org

New York Farm Bureau members and staff participated in two legislative farm tours in the Mohawk Valley and western parts of the state. They are great opportunities for farmers to showcase what they do on the farm and have meaningful conversations with decision makers in Albany.

Sen. George Borrello, ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, hosted a tour in partnership with fellow Agriculture Committee ranking member, Assemblyman Chris Tague.

This was the first time the annual event has taken place in Western New York. More than two dozen legislators traveled from their home districts in various parts of the state to participate in the two-day tour, which featured presentations at a range of farms and businesses, from dairy and crop farms to wineries, agritourism destinations and agriculture research facilities. Previous tours have featured farms and businesses in and around Assemblyman Tague's district, which spans the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys.

'Connecting the Dots'

"When it comes to understanding agriculture, you get the truest perspective from a 'boots on the ground' experience and face-to-face dialogue with those who live and breathe farming," Sen. Borrello said. "At the end of the day, this tour offered my colleagues a glimpse into the unique attributes and challenges of farms and agribusinesses in this part of the state as well as first-hand experience and conversations with those whose lives and livelihoods are in agriculture. Experiences like these make us all better legislators."

"This is a continuation of what we've been doing the last four years to connect the dots and educate our colleagues about the challenges our farmers face. It was fun to come out to a different part of the state I'm not that familiar with," said Assemblyman Tague.

Locations that the delegation visited included: Country Ayre Dairy Farms, Canticle Farm, Sprague's Maple Farms, Cuba Cheese Shoppe, Pumpkinville, Cornell Lake Erie Research Ext. Laboratory (CLER-EL), 21 Brix Winery, Growers' Cooperative Grape Juice Company and Southern Tier Brewing Company.

Earlier in the week, legislators, many from the New York City area, visited farms in the Utica area during a farm tour hosted by Assembly Member Marianne Buttenschon whose family has a Christmas tree farm.

The tour stops included Collins Farm and Creamery, Wagner Sunflower Farm, Dinitto Farms, River



SPECIAL/OFFICE OF SEN. GEORGE BORELLO

Sen. George Borrello hosted a tour across district with fellow Ag Committee ranking member Assemblyman Chris Tague in western New York. It featured presentations at a range of farms and agriculture-related businesses.

Road Greenhouse, and wrapping up at Buttenschon Tree Farm.

The farms talked about a number of issues facing agriculture including transportation, regulatory and labor challenges, market conditions, and environmental stewardship. It was another great opportunity to bridge the gap with urban lawmakers, something the Assemblywoman understands representing both the city of Utica as well as rural areas. She spoke to New York Farm Bureau about it in a recent NYFB News Bytes podcast.

"Our first step was to connect anyone in the downstate area who would be interested in fresh farm products from New York State and to invite them to the upstate area to take a peek at how great these farms are," said Buttenschon. "We can talk about how it is important to have a great environment but there also needs to be a balance and our farms need to be able to adapt and function. We must continue the conversation on how best to work together."

New York Farm Bureau's public policy department is planning a legislative farm tour later this month in Washington County.

Highlights from the WNY tour:

- In the late 1800s, as a result of its numerous cheese factories and dairy farms, Cuba, N.Y., was known as the 'cheese center of the world.' The price for cheese was established at a meeting at the Kinney Hotel on West Main Street in Cuba each week and was accepted as the price in the nation and the

world.

- The Lake Erie Grape Belt is the largest and oldest home for Concord grape growing in the world. It encompasses a narrow 60-mile band that runs along Lake Erie, stretching from Chautauqua County to Erie, Pa. The lake provides an ideal microclimate for the grapes, moderating temperatures to provide for a longer growing season.

- Cornell's College of Agriculture invented the first grape harvester in the 1960s. Today harvesters modeled after the Cornell invention are in use across the globe. Rising labor costs and increasing global competition are pushing the grape industry towards more mechanization. Mechanical harvesting can save up to 50 percent of labor costs.

- Starting in 2002 in Lakewood, N.Y., the founders of Southern Tier Brewing were on the leading edge of the craft beer boom. Today the business is an industry leader and one of the top craft beer producers in the nation. The growth of craft breweries in the state has made New York the third-largest beer producer in the country, with much of that growth occurring in central and western New York.

- Echoing the comments of many farm and agribusiness owners visited on the tour, Country Ayre Farms owners Dick Kimball and his family explained that if the state lowers the farm worker overtime threshold, their employees will see a decrease in pay because farms will be forced to limit the hours of employees to prevent additional hits to their already-thin margins. They underscored that this will be an industrywide reality.



KIM TROMBLY/NYFB STAFF

Wagon rides were a popular attraction at St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau Day at the Farm.



KIM TROMBLY/NYFB STAFF

St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau President, Dan Huntley, stands at St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau booth at St. Lawrence County Day at the Farm.



AMANDA KRENNING-MUOIO/NYFB STAFF

A major part of this years Livingston County Farm Fest was the wagon tour of Coyne Farms. This tour offered visitors information on cow care, nutrition, manure management and many other insights into a working farm in Avon, NY.



STEVE AMMERMAN/NYFB STAFF

The New York Animal Agriculture Coalition Dairy Cow Birthing Center was a feature again this year at the New York State Fair.

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