

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

February 22, 2010

After careful consideration, the Board of Directors of NY Farms! voted, at their January 2010 meeting, to recommend to the members of NY Farms! that the organization be dissolved.

This recommendation has come about for a couple key reasons:

- Many new organizations have taken up one or more pieces of the mission of NY Farms! to strengthen NY agriculture and food systems by creating public awareness of the importance of farming; promoting agriculture and food system literacy; and fostering consumer loyalty to NY farm products. As such, the need for a broad-based group is not as critical as it was at the organizations inception.
- The condition of the NYS economy – the amount of government agency funds, foundation grants, and corporate donations available for the operation of non-profits such as NY Farms! has shrunk to the point that it is not economically viable for NY Farms! to continue.

According to the NY Farms! Bylaws:

Any [dissolution] plan must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the responding members. Absentee ballots may be collected within 15 days of the vote.

Upon dissolution of the Organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section (501)(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to the state or local government for public purposes.

Should the membership approve dissolution, then the NY Farms! Board proposes to distribute the remaining funds (approximately \$16,000) to one or more non-profit organizations with a similar mission. NY Farms! would undertake a Request for Proposals (RFP) process in Spring 2010 to inform their decisions on the fund distribution.

I'm proud of what NY Farms! has accomplished over the 10+ years since its founding. As a result of the group's efforts, links between farmers, consumers, businesses and organizations have been created or expanded and are helping to build a sustainable future for NYS agriculture. I sincerely appreciate the contributions of all of the staff, board, members, and other supporters during the organization's tenure.

GENE PIERCE
President