

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

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NY Farms! publishes News to Share to provide information about food and farming to a wide range of interested individuals, organizations and businesses. It is a compilation from a variety of sources. Articles do not necessarily represent official positions of NY Farms! For more about NY Farms! Visit www.nyfarms.info. We would appreciate receiving your information and announcements for News to Share, at nyfarms@nyfarms.info. **Please also use this address to subscribe or unsubscribe.**

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NEWS TO SHARE

August 17, 2009

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NATIONAL NEWS

Food Firms Warn of Sugar Shortage *The Wall Street Journal*

Some of America's biggest food companies say the U.S. could "virtually run out of sugar" if the Obama administration doesn't ease import restrictions amid soaring prices for the key commodity.

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack, the big brands -- including Kraft Foods Inc., General Mills Inc., Hershey Co. and Mars Inc. -- bluntly raised the prospect of a severe shortage of sugar used in chocolate bars, breakfast cereal, cookies, chewing gum and thousands of other products.

The companies threatened to jack up consumer prices and lay off workers if the Agriculture Department doesn't allow them to import more tariff-free sugar. Current import quotas limit the amount of tariff-free sugar the food companies can import in a given year, except from Mexico, suppressing supplies from major producers such as Brazil.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125011957488227095.html>

NEWS FROM NY FARMS!

2009 Local Farms/Local Markets Summit *NY Farms!*

Thanks to all who attended the 2009 Local Farms/Local Markets Summit at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls on August 11. The presentations were well received and thought provoking. Brian Henahan, Senior Extension Associate at Cornell, gave a comprehensive explanation of his research on Evaluating Perishable Food Distribution. Also, thanks to Marty Broccoli, Ag. Economic Development Specialist at CCE Oneida, and Dana Stafford, General Manager of Regional Access in Ithaca, for taking part in the morning discussions.

Following lunch (pork barbeque from Harty Hog in Ovid, NY) we had another panel discussion, this time with Brian Henahan, Sherry Alpern (who participated in the NYC Wholesale Farmers' Market Study), Jack Montague of FoodLink, and Bill Reinhardt of NYSEDA, each adding a unique perspective to how they see the distribution issue in NYS.

We ended the day with an effort to knit together all of the conversations we heard. A few of the suggestions of ideas for moving forward were:

- Develop statewide food and ag plan with input from stakeholders
- Statewide leadership to coordinate key players
- Aggregation facilities / infrastructure

- State Fair Local Food Task Force
- More active involvement of Ag & Markets in organizational leadership and funding

Barriers that were identified that need to be addressed were:

- Insufficient funds for all aspects of local agriculture (eg. Farm-to-School)
- Economics of local food production
- Lack of NYS plan for food and agriculture
- Lack of communication between all parties

We will be compiling a more comprehensive report of the results of the 2009 Summit in the near future.



In photo (left to right): Brian Henehan, Senior Extension Associate at Cornell; Sherry Alpern, Wholesale Farmer's Market Study; Jack Montague, FoodLink; William Reinhardt, NYSERDA.

NEW YORK STATE NEWS

Consumers Should Expect Larger Apples From Local Growers This Fall *New York Apple Association*

Bigger is better. New York apple growers will be picking rain-fattened apples this season and predict a statewide crop at least as big as last year's, according to a consensus of the state's growers and industry leaders.

"Fresh picked local fruit will be abundant this fall," said Jim Allen, president of the New York Apple Association.

"Consumers will be delighted with the fresh taste and bigger size of our New Crop apples this season," Allen said.

Harvest of early season varieties, like Ginger Gold and Paula Red will begin in the next two weeks in the HudsonValley, Western New York and Central New York regions.

McIntosh harvest, considered the traditional "kick off" to the apple season, will begin the first week in September in most regions, a little later in September in the Lake Champlain area.

[Read more>>>](#)

**State Announces Albany Location Of New \$40 Million Food LAB:
State-of-the-Art Facility & All 49 Jobs will Remain at State Office Campus in
Albany**

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker and New York State Office of General Services Commissioner John C. Egan today announced that a new \$40 million laboratory facility will be constructed at the Harriman Research and Technology Campus in Albany. The new state-of-the-art laboratory is the first new structure to be built on the 3330-acre campus in decades and will replace an outdated facility, and will house the New York State Food Laboratory, as well as the State Metrology Laboratory, both divisions of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. All 49 state employees working in the current facility will be retained, which include 44 chemists, microbiologists and metrologists.

“New York is a leader in food safety,” Governor David A. Paterson said. “No other state in the nation has the myriad of food on store shelves, and we take the responsibility of safeguarding our residents and visitors from possible food-related illness very seriously. I am extremely pleased to announce that we will be constructing a new, efficient and clean energy laboratory in Albany that will enhance our existing food safety programs.”

[Read more>>>](#)

**Commissioner Announces State Eco-Friendly Farming Award: Trinder Farm of
Fabius Wins State’s Agricultural Environmental Management Award**

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today recognized Tom and Elaine Trinder of Fabius as the recipients of the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award. The Trinders, sponsored by the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District, were honored during the Agricultural Leadership Luncheon ceremonies today at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls.

“The Trinder Farm is an excellent model of employing environmental and resource innovations to build an excellent family farm,” the Commissioner said. Their commitment to the land and to adopting new practices to both protect and improve their soils is exemplary. I am pleased to honor the Trinders, as well as the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District with the 16th annual AEM award.”

The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award is presented annually to a farm family that practices sound agricultural stewardship by incorporating the AEM program into the operation of their farm business. The county Soil and Water

Conservation District is also recognized for their important role in providing necessary technical assistance and resources.

[Read more>>>](#)

Gillibrand, Schumer Announce Passage of \$350 Million to Help Dairy Farmers Reeling from Crisis

New York Farm Bureau

U.S. Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand announced passage of an amendment to Agriculture spending bill that will direct \$350 million to the Farm Service Administration to help New York farmers struggling during the dairy crisis. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont authored the amendment.

"I commend Chairman Kohl, Senator Sanders, Senator Schumer, and others for doing what's right for dairy farmers in New York and across the country," Senator Gillibrand said. " During these tough economic times, this increase will bring some much needed relief for our farmers. While this is great for New York's dairy farmers, this is only a temporary solution to the fundamental problems with the dairy pricing system. I will continue to work for a long term fix for our farmers."

[Read more>>>](#)

New York State Requests Assistance For Crop Losses: 17 New York Counties Suffer Crop Losses from Excessive Rain and Hail This Season

New York Farm Bureau

Governor David A. Paterson today requested the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) designate 17 New York counties as agricultural disaster areas due to bad weather conditions this growing season. Today, New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker toured crop damage on several Long Island farms that have extensive crop losses due to weather, as well as crops impacted by a widespread fungus known as late blight.

[Read more>>>](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Farm Risk Management, Crop Insurance and Planning for 2009

Update from the NYS Dept of Ag's Crop Insurance Education Program

Report Crop Damage Promptly

If you should experience damage on insured crops, contact your crop insurance agent immediately (no later than 72 hours) upon discovery. Ask your agent for a copy for your records of the damage report to the insurance company. Do not destroy the evidence of damage until a loss adjuster evaluates it.

Good record keeping practices are important. For example, if a loss is anticipated or to prove APH (Actual Production History) yield or if production from two insurance units will be mixed, specific detailed record keeping is required. Discuss these topics with a crop insurance agent to determine the required records for your operation. If you need a record keeping system, an approved one is available at the webpage cropins.aers.psu.edu.

Risk Planning Website

The website <http://farm-risk-plans.usda.gov/> has received high marks for the clarity and usefulness of the information available there. Many of its features will be relevant to new or beginning farmers, whether or not they choose to enroll in crop insurance. The home page lays out four general areas: Risk Management Planning, Marketing Planning, New Enterprise Planning and Farm Planning Library. Two other features that may be of interest are self-evaluation tests to help determine the best risk planning strategy for your farm. One is a Risk Management Checklist, the other a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). Both tools can be accessed from the home page.

Next Dairy-LGM Sign Up Deadline: August 28

The Dairy-LGM (Livestock Gross Margin) provides protection against shrinking margins of milk income over feed costs. It can pay when the actual gross margin is less than projected, based on Board of Trade prices. The policy now allows a longer time to sign up and authorizes default (or producer's actual) feed to milk ratio. The next enrollment period begins August 28.

Other Upcoming Deadlines

September 30 is the deadline for enrolling in, or changing existing, crop insurance policies for fall seeded barley, wheat and APH forage production for the 2010 crop year. Check with a crop insurance agent about availability in your county. To be eligible for disaster payments (also known as the SURE Program) farmers must enroll all insurable crops. Both crop insurance and SURE guarantees increase when one insures at higher levels of coverage.

For further details on any of the above, contact a crop insurance agent. Agent lists are available at your FSA office or on the web at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/>.

Visit the NY Crop Insurance Education Program Website [here>>>](#)



New York Crop Insurance Education Program
Risk Management Agency USDA
New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets



OPPORTUNITIES

Governor Paterson Announces Request For Proposals For The Healthy Food/Healthy Communities Initiative
NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

Governor David A. Paterson today issued a request for proposals from potential program administrators for the \$10 million Healthy Food/Healthy Communities Revolving Loan Fund program, the cornerstone of the Governor’s Healthy Food/Healthy Communities Initiative. The program will help finance the building of food markets in underserved communities throughout the State and is designed to increase the availability of nutritious foods in areas that lack access to fresh food markets. Proposals are due by September 3, 2009, to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), which will oversee the Initiative alongside the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

“All New Yorkers should have access to fresh, regionally grown produce and be able to purchase those products in their neighborhoods,” Governor Paterson said. “Diabetes rates have doubled in the last 10 years. Research has shown that the presence of supermarkets in communities helps people maintain a healthy weight and eat more fruits and vegetables. Yet, despite a growth in population in New York City, for example, the number of supermarkets has declined by one third in the past six years. We want an administrator for the Healthy Food/Healthy Communities Revolving Loan Fund program who will enthusiastically seek opportunities to finance food markets in underserved communities and assist the State in our goals to provide healthier food options and make positive personal and financial returns to local communities, farmers and consumers.”

[Read more>>>](#)

RESOURCES

Local Dirt Website

Local Dirt is an online site for finding, selling, and buying local food (and local food buyers). It is funded by the National Science Foundation. Local Dirt is the only site that does not charge a markup for selling online. They come from farm backgrounds and have a goal to give small and mid-sized farmers the same advantages as large distributors. Finding buyers and automating the sales, invoices, and inventory is made as easy and fast as possible.

How It Works:

1. Profile Page – have a free page telling about your farm
 2. List and sell products – put products on the site for sale on your farm, through a farmer market, or for wholesale delivery. Buyers search by distance and order online directly from the farm. Invoices are automatically generated. Local Dirt does not take any markup or receive any of these payments.
 3. List deals – Selling a whole cow? Have excess product? Take bids online.
- There is more. Register for a tour (http://www.localdirt.com/see_more_ask_questions-r1.html) to see and ask questions.

Who can use this?

To market or sell: Farms, local Food producers, farmer Markets, farm cooperatives, and local food distributors.

To buy: Individuals, farm stands, restaurants, grocers, schools, hospitals, and other businesses.

Just getting started in your area...

Not seeing anyone? Do a search for a product or buyer, then click “set an alert”. You will receive an email anytime that product or a new buyer is available on the site.

Please help us pass the word on. www.localdirt.com

Farmers Guides available

New York State Farm Bureau

The New York State Farm Bureau has the following guides for sale- “Farmer’s Guide to Labor & Employment Laws”, “Farmer’s Guide to ICE and Immigration Law Enforcement Activities: An Employer’s Rights and Responsibilities”, “Farmer’s Guide to Truck & Farm Implement Laws & Regulations”, “Farmer’s Guide to Oil and Gas Leases”. The prices are varied and depend on member or non-member status. Please contact Lisa Ovitt lovitt@nyfb.org TEL: (518) 436-8495.

WHAT’S IN SEASON?

APPLES

We’re glad you asked. This month we’re featuring **APPLES**. If you are a farmer and not listed on this website please send us your contact information.

<http://www.nyfarms.info/apples2005.html>

SAVE THE DATE

Calendar of Events

For an updated calendar of events, visit: <http://www.nyfarms.info/calendar.html>

Like News to Share, then Join NY Farms! Download membership application at <http://www.nyfarms.info>.