

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

P.O. Box 210, Watkins Glen, New York 14981 Office: 607-535-9790 Fax: 607-535-9794
E-Mail: nyfarms@nyfarms.info Web: www.nyfarms.info

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

December 18, 2008

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NEWS FROM NY FARMS

The NY Farms! Association would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! We wish the best for you all in the New Year!

NEW YORK STATE NEWS

New York Farm Bureau Members Elect New President: Dean Norton of Batavia Chosen to Lead the State's Ag Advocacy Group

News From New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau members today elected Dean Norton, a dairy farmer and agricultural consultant from Batavia, N.Y. as the organization's new president. Eric Ooms, a dairy farmer from Kinderhook, N.Y. was elected as vice president.

The election was held at Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting in Albany. Membership delegates representing farmers from around the state cast ballots. New York Farm Bureau is the statewide lobbying/trade organization that represents approximately 30,000 farm families.

Norton takes over for John Lincoln who retired today after 14 years as president and 29 years in various leadership positions in Farm Bureau.

Norton is a Senior Agriculture Consultant with Freed Maxick & Battaglia CPA's. His family owns a dairy farm in Elba, N.Y. and runs a custom trucking operation for forage and commodity harvesting. Norton has served on Farm Bureau's state board of directors since 2004 and was the Genesee County Farm Bureau president from 2000-2004.

[Read more>>](#)

Young Farmers Honored During State Annual Meeting: New York Farm Bureau Recognizes Leaders of Next Generation of Farmers

News From New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau honored outstanding young farmers during the organization's State Annual Meeting this week in Albany. Young farmers ages 18 to 35 competed in statewide competitions during the fall and the winners were announced on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Washington County Residents Brian and Catherine Ziehm received the 2008 Young Farmer Achievement Award. This award recognizes young farmers for their agricultural pursuits and leadership within the community. The couple has a dairy, beef cattle and alpaca operation. The Ziehms were awarded \$1,000 from Dodge and the New York Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Program, use of a Kubota M Series Utility Tractor for one year, a Valvoline product voucher and an expense-paid trip to compete on the

national level at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention.

[Read more>>](#)

New York Farmers Donate More Than 3.5 Million Pounds of Food to Food Bank Association of New York State

News From New York Farm Bureau

When New York Farm Bureau members traveled to Albany today for the State Annual Meeting they didn't come empty-handed. Members and supporting food companies kicked off the State Annual Meeting with food donations to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

Today's donations bring the year long total of food donated by farmers across the state to more than 3.5 million pounds. With a few weeks left in the year, it is expected that farmer donations will exceed last year's record of 3.7 million pounds.

Food is collected through the "Harvest For All" donation program. "Harvest For All" is a nationwide annual farm donation partnership linking the Farm Bureau and Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest) in each state.

[Read more>>](#)

Farm Bureau Fights EPA Mandate to Tax Farm Animals in New York: New tax would have a \$110 million impact annually on New York dairy industry

News From New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau President John Lincoln today said farmers will fight a proposed new permit requirement by the Environmental Protection Agency that would regulate greenhouse gases, including those emitted by dairy and livestock farms.

The new permits would cost farmers in New York more than \$110 million per year, a staggering amount that would have a dramatic impact on the rural economy and the agricultural sector. It would surely force countless family farms out of business.

The proposed EPA initiative would force family farmers in New York to pay a permit fee in order to continue to operate, claiming that farm animals are emitting massive amounts of greenhouse gases.

[Read more>>](#)

Farmers Criticize Paterson Budget Cuts: Governor's cuts unfairly hit agriculture programs

News from New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau today criticized the proposed budget cuts by Governor Paterson, saying they disproportionately target agriculture compared to many other programs.

"The budget will not be balanced by making across the board cuts and failing to make wise choices about both agricultural and non-agricultural programs," said John Lincoln,

president of New York Farm Bureau. "We are a part of the economy that is actually growing and thriving. We're the biggest sector of the upstate economy. We cannot understand why agriculture has been targeted so disproportionately."

Most concerning is that Governor Paterson is proposing to cut the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) programs for agriculture, along with critical initiatives that support and increase farm profitability, by massive levels.

[Read more>>](#)

Farm Bureau Honors Bruno, Jerome for Distinguished Service to Agriculture

News from New York Farm Bureau

Senator Joseph L. Bruno of Rensselaer County and Rich Jerome of Ontario County were honored for Distinguished Service to Agriculture, New York Farm Bureau's most prestigious award, on Wednesday evening of the organization's State Annual Meeting held this week in Albany.

In presenting the awards, retiring Farm Bureau President John Lincoln said, "The Distinguished Service Award is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed on a member of the agricultural family. We are fortunate this year to have two very deserving recipients."

Sen. Bruno served 32 years as a New York State Senator for the 43rd district and 13 years as Senate Majority Leader. His commitment to agriculture through his many years leading the Senate helped to ensure a more positive business climate for farmers and recognition for the industry as a major revenue generator for the State of New York. He retired from the Senate in July, 2008.

[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

Winter is a good time to firm up risk management plans for 2009 spring crops. Look for upcoming announcements of workshops in January and February being given around the state for crop insurance products with March 15 closing deadlines. In 2008, many farmers benefited from CRC (Crop Revenue Coverage) revenue protection not only from reduced yields but also from the decline in the fall market price for corn and soybeans. There are new benefits available to corn and soybean producers for the 2009 crop year.

Also to be covered in these presentations is the new requirement that producers be enrolled in crop insurance or NAP (Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) in order to be eligible for disaster payments. FSA borrower credits should be available for some presentations. Bring your questions. Workshops are designed to provide producers with information tools to make the best risk management and crop insurance choices for their farm operation. In the next few weeks, the listing of crop insurance workshops will be posted at the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets website to assist

you in locating workshops near you. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the New York State Department of Agriculture's Crop Insurance Specialist, Christopher H. Reed, at (518) 485-8935 or email him at: chris.reed@agmkt.state.ny.us.

NY Crop Insurance Education Program Website
<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/CropInsurance.html>

OPPORTUNITIES

Taste the Regions of NY project

In case you haven't heard, there is a pilot project between New York Farms! and New York Small Scale Food Processors Association that was funded by a grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute to place value added products into gift boxes for sale around the state. Taste the Regions of NY™ has sold its first gift box and is looking forward to a successful future. There are several different themed boxes ranging from party snacks, to salsa boxes, to tea time offerings.

Our shippers are: Judi Adamson of Let's Go Nuts for Long Island's Best; Jim Milano at Hudson Valley Foodworks for Hudson Valley Harvest; Rob Hastings of Rivermede Farm for Adirondack Harvest; Dave Evans at Nelson Farms for Central Leatherstocking; and Ethan Poole at Red Jacket Orchards for Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty. Producers from around the state have joined us to showcase their products, but we can always use more. Check them out at www.tastetheregionsofny.com. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Andrea Nichols at 607-535-9790 or anichols@gwriters.com. This project is made possible through grant funding from the New York Farm Viability Institute.

RESOURCES

Sample NY online

Sample New York

Juicy fruits, succulent vegetables, mouthwatering meats, the freshest fish, delectable dairy...whatever you're craving, you don't have to look further than your nearby market, or your computer.

Visit www.SampleNY.org & savor all the local flavors of New York's finest: Learn the benefits of eating homegrown See what's in season Locate regional farmers' markets Download robust recipes/healthy cooking tips Mark your calendar for "must do" events And much, much more!

2008 Pride of New York Harvest Festival Food & Wine Gift Package Program
From the office of Patrick Hooker, Ag. Commissioner of NYS

With the holidays right around the corner, the Pride of New York has a terrific opportunity for you to share New York's grand agricultural bounty with your friends across the State or around the world. It's the Pride of New York Gift Package Program.

New York is a major agricultural state with a wide assortment of fabulous foods and wines made here in New York by family farmers and family businesses who take great pride in their products. This program allows you to share those products with your family and friends by providing a convenient one-stop shop with hundreds of New York products and gift packages.

Visit the Pride of New York at www.prideofny.com and click on "Pride Gift Packages" for a direct link to this excellent gift resource. Pride of New York Gift Packages are made of high quality, unique products and make the perfect gift for any holiday or special occasion.

Savor the flavor of New York this holiday season with a Pride of New York Gift Package.

RECOMMENDED READING

NY Sustainable Agriculture Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the NY Sustainable Agriculture Quarterly. This seasonal newsletter is being brought to you by NY SARE outreach (Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education), a division of Northeast SARE.

To view the newsletter (PDF) click on the link below:

http://www.smallfarms.cornell.edu/pages/news/SARE/SARE_Fall2008.pdf

In the NY Sustainable Ag Quarterly, you will find information about SARE's funding opportunities, including grant opportunities, professional development scholarships and sponsorship opportunities.

You will also read stories of how farmers, educators and communities use SARE grants to explore new ways to advance sustainable agriculture.

But this newsletter is much more than that. It is a showcase for the growing number of organizations in New York addressing issues in food and agriculture system sustainability. Look for a spotlight in every issue featuring a group offering a fresh approach to enhancing sustainable agriculture and community development.

Choose Right Supermarket Shopping Guide

This is your resource for simplifying making healthy food choices. It's like walking through the grocery store with your own personal nutrition expert! To purchase the shopping guide for \$12.99 please visit http://www.chooserright.com/Home_Page.html

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

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

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