

# 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](mailto:nyfarms@nyfarms.info) Web: [www.nyfarms.info](http://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](http://www.nyfarms.info). We would appreciate receiving your information and announcements for News to Share, at [nyfarms@nyfarms.info](mailto:nyfarms@nyfarms.info). **Please also use this address to subscribe or unsubscribe.**

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## NEWS TO SHARE

February 14, 2009

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## **NEWS FROM NY FARMS**

### **NewYorkfarmersmarket.com**

If you have not yet checked out, bought from, or joined [www.newyorkfarmersmarket.com](http://www.newyorkfarmersmarket.com), now's the time! It offers you an opportunity to expand your presence at a Farmers Market on-line, all year long. They have had their first sales, and more farmers and processors are joining weekly, so check out their offerings. If you don't have your own web site, but have a product you can ship, you can have access to a wider community for a small price. Contact Kim at [www.newyorkfarmersmarket.com](http://www.newyorkfarmersmarket.com) to find out more.

## **NEW YORK STATE NEWS**

### **Agricultural Pride ! at the 24th Annual New York Farm Show**

Syracuse, NY - Yes - Agricultural Pride. "We are proud of the northeast farmers and the impact that they have on the economy. Times have been difficult for these dedicated people working ever day to provide us with our food and I want them to know that we at New York Farm Show are grateful for there efforts" said Scott Grigor, Show Manager.

The 24th annual New York Farm Show, February 26-28, 2009 at the NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse - the Northeast's premier indoor farm show is packed with new and practical equipment, services and products just right for your farming operation. Over 425 exhibitors covering more than 215,000 sq. ft. will be waiting for you. Show hours 8:30 am - 4 pm daily.

"It's Agricultural Pride and the 2009 New York Farm Show offers many new and exciting highlights for everyone," said Scott Grigor. Visitors can shop, compare and buy the latest developments in the agriculture industry as well as ask the experts about the latest practices and efficiencies.

Additional highlights including; seminars on Farming in the Future, Gas Wells Awareness and many more, a special guest appearance by Max Armstrong, from RFD TV, the Robotic Milking units at the DeLaval and Lely displays, the "Hot Beef Sundae" will makes its return at the Beef Industry exhibit. Many organizations will be offering workshops and presentations including the Beef Industry exhibit and presentations, Forestry Management Workshops and Agricultural Safety Programs will all be available throughout the show.

[Read more>>>](#)

**Department of Agriculture & Markets Commissioner Pat Hooker presents Awards for Winners for 2008 Partnership Awards, (NY Farms and New York School Nutrition Association are sponsors)**

Todd Adelman

## Block Institute

Todd is the winner in the category of Building Partnerships & Integrating Farm to School into Wellness Activities. At the Block Institute a “Country Fair” highlighting New York’s Dairy Industry was held on October 17th. The day started with an assembly featuring welcoming remarks from Christina Grace Representing NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and Sara Suman representing the Brooklyn Borough President. From a humorous skit, square dancing, petting zoo, a carousel ride to carnival games and the dairy princess, everyone involved had a great time at the fair.

A mini farmers market was also part of the festivities which included local produce and homemade baked good, then students could pick there own pumpkin from the patch set up on school grounds. All funds from the farmers market are given to the school garden committee for next year’s garden.

Lunch included many foods sourced from local ingredients and was well received by students and staff.

Todd likes to share that over the course of the year vegetable consumption increases when students are part of the garden project and the other activities. A great project that includes wellness activities and nutrition learning focusing on local foods.

## Regan Kiemback Southampton UFSD

Regan won in the category of Working with Local Farmers. Building partnerships with local farmers is a goal that Regan has taken on, her orders local fruit and vegetables from farms including: Milk Pail apples, and peaches and apple cider from Halsey Farm. Also, corn on the cob and tomatoes are picked from the Zaluski’s farm stand in September and October.

Her next move is to connect with Krazewski’s Farm for strawberries and Wesnofske Farm for potatoes in 2009. Students make visits to local farms, another connection to local products and producers. Nutrition information on local foods, with taste testing local apples and using these products on the menu give more exposure of these items to students.

Regan’s goal to increase local foods will result in students that are not only healthier but are aware of where their food comes from and benefits the local environment.

A great effort on working with local farmers and well deserved winner.

## Billy Doherty New York City Office of School Food

Billy Doherty won in the Merchandising/Promoting category. In the spring of 2008 applications were sent to city schools to participate in Garden to School Café projects. The projects recruited included onsite gardens, neighboring community gardens, in-class hydroponics and urban farms that worked during the summer. As a result of this incredible collaboration, program development and marketing New York City schools hosted Garden to School Harvest Day events. The results were 20 unique efforts.

Fresh herbs and vegetables were harvested from the school and community gardens. These products were highlighted and incorporated into SchoolFood recipes to enhance the menus. Students were able to enjoy the wonderful, fresh local products as part of the days event. From Marinated Bean Salad, Roasted Vegetables, Pesto with Pasta to Moroccan Curried Potato Salad staff and students partook of these healthy foods.

Many partnerships helped to make this project happen. Chris Grace and Bob Lewis hosted a kickoff meeting with other interested groups early on to start planning. Council on Environment, Green Thumb, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Added Value/Red Hook Community Farm, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Hillary Baum and community based committees were involved.

The goals to increase student awareness, connect students to local farming and develop an understanding of the states large agricultural base were well met. Gardens and farms became centers of education where the natural world blossomed and we learn about how our food grows.

Great effort on promoting gardens, local foods and education.

### **Farm Bureau to Host Energy in Agriculture Conference** *New York Farm Bureau*

On February 19, the Washington County Farm Bureau will host the Energy in Agriculture Conference at the Ft. Edward Firehouse located at 114 Broadway, State Route 4 in the village of Ft. Edward.

The Energy in Agriculture Conference will provide updated information for the agricultural community regarding energy issues, particularly those that relate specifically to agriculture. The conference focus will be on the discussion of action rather than reviewing. All farmers, rural landowners, and those interested in energy should attend.

Registration begins at 9:30 am and the plenary session featuring John Williamson from State Line Farm will begin at 10:00 am. Mr. Williamson will discuss his experiences of extracting oil, making biodiesel and distilling ethanol for energy on his farm.

The conference will also include Chris Callahan from Callahan Engineering discussing his recent Biodiesel Feasibility Study; Aaron Gabriel from CCE Washington County discussing Emerging Opportunities in Grass; Brian Henehan from Cornell University discussing Group Action in Developing Renewable Energy; and conclude with a panel discussion.

[Read more>>>](#)

### **Farmers Concerned About Transportation Proposal: Farm trucks need to get to consumers**

*New York Farm Bureau*

ALBANY - New York Farm Bureau today issued comments regarding the state's on-going effort to propose a ban on rural truck traffic that will surely harm jobs and have a major impact on agriculture and the Upstate economy.

Under the proposal the state transportation department will be imposing new classifications of roadways, including making some of the roads that network through rural farming areas off-limits to large trucks, the primary mode of transport for agricultural commodities and other products like lumber. New York Farm Bureau provided the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform, which is currently reviewing the proposal, with specific impacts to farm families from the proposed regulations.

"Before we make these sweeping, restrictive changes, we have to weigh the impact these changes will have on the upstate rural economy and the costs of transporting farm products to New York City consumers," said Dean Norton, president of New York Farm Bureau.

"This proposal will harm jobs and hurt our family businesses," Norton said.

The state DOT is proposing to reclassify roadways, restricting the use of trucks on certain highways and small roads. This will waste fuel, cost more money and eventually lead to higher prices for locally produced food for consumers.

Restrictions will add dramatically to the cost of moving product to market for family farmers in the Finger Lakes area, which supplies numerous products like milk, fruit and vegetables, and wine, to New York city consumers and greenmarkets.

[Read more>>>](#)

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Nine New York Horses Potentially Exposed to Contagious Equine Metritis**

*NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets*

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today alerted horse owners and breeders to the potential exposure of their horses to Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), a contagious venereal disease of horses. Currently, there are nine known stallions outside of New York State that have tested positive for CEM and that have potentially exposed hundreds of other horses, including nine mares in New York State.

Contagious Equine Metritis can be spread when horses are bred, or congenitally from mares to their foals. While natural breeding is more likely to spread the infection, horses

involved in artificial breeding can also be exposed to CEM. Infected stallions seldom, if ever, show outward signs of infection, but may act as carriers of the disease.

To date, there are nine mares in New York and approximately 300 other potentially exposed horses in 37 other states. As potentially exposed horses are identified, they are placed under strict restrictions by state and federal animal health authorities, pending three consecutive negative test results. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and USDA veterinarians have quarantined the nine exposed mares in New York State and have begun testing. None of the potentially exposed mares in New York State or other states have tested positive for CEM at this time.

There are nine stallions that have tested positive for CEM. Used for breeding purposes, these stallions are suspect for possibly exposing mares to CEM.

[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***

A major deadline falls this year on March 16 for crop insurance sign-ups on most spring planted crops. Any changes to existing policies must also be made on that date. The spring crops insurable in New York include corn, dry beans, barley, oats, soybeans, fresh market sweet corn, grain sorghum, green peas, potatoes, spring forage seeding, processing beans, and processing sweet corn.

Under provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, most crops must now be enrolled with crop insurance or FSA's Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) in order to be eligible for crop disaster payments. Farmers who purchase coverage at higher levels will receive increased guarantees not only for crop insurance but disaster protection as well.

For those who missed fall crop insurance deadlines, including perennial (apple, grape) producers, eligibility for crop disaster payments may be restored by enrolling in the whole farm revenue protection policy AGR-Lite (Adjusted Gross Revenue). The deadline for first-time buyers of AGR-Lite is also March 16.

AGR-Lite is a whole farm revenue protection policy that can either stand alone or be used in combination with other policies. In addition to meeting eligibility requirements for disaster payments, AGR-Lite has a number of features worth considering. The policy covers otherwise uninsurable commodities, protects organic and direct marketed production at realistic prices, provides umbrella coverage over selected individual crop coverages, protects bottom line operating costs, and provides individualized protection based on your yield, quality and price history.

A crop insurance agent will be able to assist you in determining if AGR-Lite is an appropriate option and help with the relatively straightforward first year application requirements. Apart from the initial application forms, most of the required paper work is likely to be required already by FSA programs or by your regular business record-keeping.

The NY Crop Insurance Education Program has organized a winter series of crop insurance information sessions to help New York farmers with their risk management planning. The sessions are designed to complement, but not replace, one-to-one consultation with a crop insurance agent or FSA representative.

Remaining sessions before the March 16 deadline are posted at the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets website <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/CropInsurance.html>. If you have questions, contact Christopher Reed, NY Crop Insurance Education Program, at (518) 485-8935 or email [chris.reed@agmkt.state.ny.us](mailto:chris.reed@agmkt.state.ny.us).

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



## GRANTS

### **Pride Of New York “Buy Local” Advertising Funds Available Grants to Cost-Share Advertising & Promotion; Available First-Come, First-Serve Basis**

*NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets*

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced the availability of funding for a pilot Pride of New York “Buy Local” Cooperative Advertising Program. Members of the Pride of New York Program can receive up to \$5,000 on a first-come, first-serve basis to advertise and promote specialty crop food and agricultural products grown or processed in New York State.

“New Yorkers have some of the best products grown or processed right here in their backyard, yet unfortunately many don’t know where to find them,” the Commissioner said. “I am pleased that the Department was able to secure federal funds for this important program that will help consumers identify local products and help the State’s specialty crop producers build awareness, preference and sales of New York products across the State. I encourage all Pride of New York members to take advantage of this great opportunity.”

The Pride of New York’s “Buy Local” Cooperative Advertising Grant Program, a pilot project of the Department, provides up to \$5,000 to create and develop promotional messages, purchase media time, print space or signage or pursue other promotional activities. Members can choose from a wide range of advertising and marketing options that best fit their budget and target audience, in multiple media markets. Cooperative advertising funds will be awarded on a first-come, first serve basis.

[Read more>>>](#)

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Schuyler County Environmental Management Council Offering Scholarship**

#### *NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*

The Schuyler County Environmental Management Council is once again offering a scholarship to one youth between the ages 12-17 to attend a week at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Camp in the Adirondacks.

DEC Education Camps consist of a variety of workshops and activities, which are designed to help campers become more aware of the environment around them and, perhaps, stimulate their desire to participate in the sound management of our natural resources. The activities and workshops are a blend of learning and recreation. They are conducted outdoors providing the camper with direct hands-on experience with their environment. Scholarship covers the camp fee (\$325) for one week of participation in the camp, including meals. Campers must be able to find their own transportation to and from the camp in the Adirondacks.

For more information on the DEC camp program please visit

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1872.html>. Applications due no later than March 1, 2009. Application materials can be found at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office at 323 Owego Street, Montour Falls, or by calling Jenna Hicks at 607-535-7161.

## **WHAT'S IN SEASON?**

We're glad you asked. This month we're featuring **VENISON**. 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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