

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.**

Like News to Share, then Join NY Farms! Download membership application at <http://www.nyfarms.info>. Please check the calendar at <http://www.nyfarms.info/calendar.html> for upcoming events.

NEWS TO SHARE

June 16, 2009

Please click on an article or heading to drop down to it's location.

In This Edition:

NEW YORK STATE NEWS	2
New York Maple Syrup Production Up 10 Percent	2
Farmers Markets in Western New York: The 2009 Guide	2
Legislators, Farm Bureau Urge Albany to Oppose Anti-Farm Bill	2
Governor Patterson Announces WIC Checks Now Accepted for Fresh Produce	2
RISK MANAGEMENT	3
Farm Risk Management, Crop Insurance and Planning for 2009	3
GRANTS	4
NYFVI seeks proposals for grant funds for agricultural project	4
OPPORTUNITIES	4
Enter the 2009 Strawberry Festival's Strawberry Pie Contest	4
Community and Rural Development Institute's Sustainable Communities Webinar	5
CALL TO ACTION	5
American Farmland Trust Kicks Off "America's Favorite Farmers Markets" Contest	5
Apply by July 1 for Farm Safety Awards	6
RESOURCES	6
Small Farms Update May 2009	6
WHAT'S IN SEASON?	6
SAVE THE DATE Calendar of Events	6

NEW YORK STATE NEWS

New York Maple Syrup Production Up 10 Percent

USDA NASS Office

New York maple syrup 2009 production increased 10 percent from last year's production. Syrup production is estimated at 362,000 gallons, up from the 328,000 gallons produced in 2008 according to Stephen Ropel, Director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field Office. Vermont and Maine produced more syrup than New York. The number of taps, 1.51 million, increased 4 percent from last year. Syrup produced per tap averaged 0.240 gallons, up from 0.227 gallons in 2008. The final value of the 2008 crop is \$13.9 million, 82 percent above the previous year's value of production. The average price was \$42.40 per gallon equivalent for all sales.

[Read more>>>](#)

Farmers Markets in Western New York: The 2009 Guide

The Buffalo News

After cutting meat for 44 years, Dave Cloy hopes the scales are finally tipping ever so slightly in his direction. For decades, facilities to process locally grown beef cattle and pigs have been disappearing, as consumers bought more of their meat at supermarkets. But as 2009 warms up, business is picking up, said Cloy, who turns locally raised cows into steaks and burger at his Ransomville slaughterhouse.

"People are really beginning to wonder what they're eating, Cloy said. He's more than happy to tell them he knows exactly. He can tell you where his animals grew up, and how they were turned into cuts of beef that were frozen immediately.

[Read more >>>](#)

Legislators, Farm Bureau Urge Albany to Oppose Anti-Farm Bill

New York Farm Bureau

Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committee Chairs and Ranking Minority members showed a united front, along with the New York Farm Bureau President and family farmers, today in urging the State Senate and Assembly to reject the Farmworker Omnibus Bill. This bill will force many New York farms out of business, ultimately hurting the workers, and devastating the economy of Upstate New York.

[Read more>>>](#)

Governor Patterson Announces WIC Checks Now Accepted for Fresh Produce NYS Department of Ag & Markets

Governor David A. Paterson today announced that participants in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program can now use their monthly checks at New York farmers' markets to purchase eligible fresh produce. New York is the first state in the nation to allow the use of WIC checks for fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets.

“Making farmers’ market produce available to WIC recipients is good for New York’s

families and New York's farmers. There are not enough healthy food options in many urban and rural communities throughout the State and that lack of affordable, nutritious food is hurting the health of New Yorkers," said Governor Paterson. "This program will expand access to healthy food for some of the most vulnerable women, infants and children across the State."

[Read more here>>>>](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT

Farm Risk Management, Crop Insurance and Planning for 2009

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

This edition focuses on upcoming deadlines for acreage reporting, a critical component of the crop insurance program, and for enrollment in the Fall Forage Seeding policy for 2009.

Acreage Reporting

Farmers participating in the crop insurance program are required to file acreage reports with *both* their county FSA office and their crop insurance agent. July 15 is the reporting deadline for most 2009 spring crop policies including field corn, fresh market sweet corn, dry beans, grain sorghum, green peas, potatoes, processing sweet corn, processing tomatoes and soybeans. (June 15 is the acreage reporting deadline for onion, spring barley and oat policies.)

Acreage information supplied to FSA must be identical to what is reported to one's crop insurance agent. *If there are differences between the two reports, a written explanation is required.* Step one is filing an acreage report at FSA and obtaining a copy of your FSA 578 form. Step two is completing your acreage report with your crop insurance agent and including a copy of the FSA 578 form. Verify that your agent has the correct farm serial number(s) for your operation.

The acreage report is the basis for determining the amount of insurance provided and the premium charged. The report will show the crops planted, acreage prevented from planting, location of crops, the acreage planted, the dates planted, insurance units where crops are located, and cultural practices followed. Planted and prevented planting acreage should be recorded separately by farm. Because it impacts protection, report the planting completion date by field for late-planted acreage. If unable to plant your intended acreage, your agent will help you determine whether you qualify for a prevented planting payment.

Fall Forage Seeding

The 2009 Forage Seeding policy is available in Cattaraugus, Genesee, Jefferson, Madison, Ontario, Orange, Otsego and St. Lawrence Counties. The policy covers seedlings where at least 50% of the seed (by weight) is alfalfa, clover, birdsfoot trefoil, or other locally recognized forage legume species. The policy provides protection of a good stand. On acreage with a poor stand caused by bad weather, payments can range to as much as \$81 to \$218 per acre depending on the coverage choice at time of enrollment. Premiums generally range from about \$6 to \$12 per acre. The enrollment/contract change deadline for fall seeding is July 31.

Contact a crop insurance agent for further details. Agent lists are available at your FSA office or on the web at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/>. The latest information on crop insurance deadlines can be accessed at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/docbrowser/>. The User Friendly option will lead you to State, County, Crop and 2009 Special Provisions.

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

NYFVI seeks proposals for grant funds for agricultural projects

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced the release of the Farmers Markets Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP). This grant program provides up to \$25,000 in matching funds for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation of farmers' markets in New York State.

Farmers markets have become an increasingly popular venue for both farmers and consumers alike, the Commissioner said. They provide access to locally grown farm and food products for consumers and a direct sale for farmers. With Governor Paterson's support, we are pleased to be able to offer these grants that will help these markets make the permanent infrastructure improvements needed to meet the growing demand they are receiving.

As part of the Grow New York program, Governor Paterson allocated \$150,000 for this program in his Executive Budget that will aid in the construction of permanent infrastructure to support increased access to New York grown and produced food at farmers markets throughout the State. Applicants can apply for up to \$25,000 in matching funds, which should not exceed more than 50% of the project cost.

[Read more>>>](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Enter the 2009 Strawberry Festival's Strawberry Pie Contest

Owego Strawberry Festival

On Friday, June 19, the Owego Strawberry Festival will be searching for the Best Homemade Strawberry Pie!

Anyone is welcome to submit an entry into the contest. Pies will be judged by a panel on filling, crust, appearance and overall taste/ flavor. To submit an entry please read the rules and complete an application form which is available at

www.owegostrawberryfestival.com. First place winners will receive a \$50 award, 2nd place \$25, and two honorable mentions will receive gift certificates.

Drop-off of pies will take place between 5 and 6 p.m. at the tables under the awning in front of Riverow Bookstore, 187 Front St., Owego, NY. Judging will occur at 6:30 p.m. and the winners/prizes will be announced at 7:30 p.m.

[Read more >>>](#)

Community and Rural Development Institute's Sustainable Communities Webinar #6: Wind Energy, Community Impacts, and Development Approaches-Tuesday, June 23, 2009, 2:00-3:30 p.m

Description:

Recognizing that wind energy development continues across the state, this webinar for CCE educators, municipal officials, planning staff and other community leaders will address:

- 1) an overview of the state of wind energy development in NYS;
- 2) community impacts and models and;
- 3) Group Action on wind energy development.

To Register:

E-mail Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman at hmm1@cornell.edu with your Name, Title, Affiliation, Address, Phone and Fax numbers. Instructions will be sent out in advance of the webinar.

CALL TO ACTION

American Farmland Trust Kicks Off "America's Favorite Farmers Markets" Contest

American Farmland Trust

American Farmland Trust is pleased to announce its first vote for "America's Favorite Farmers Markets" contest. The contest is a nation-wide challenge to see which of America's 4,685 farmers markets can rally the most support from its customers. The goal is to promote the connection between fresh local food and the local farms and farmland that supply it. "Farmers markets are one of the best ways for consumers to support local farms and farmers," says Julia Freedgood, Managing Director for American Farmland Trust's *Growing Local Initiative*.

Farmers market managers can register to join the contest by visiting www.farmland.org/marketmanager.

Market shoppers will vote to support their favorite farmers' market at www.farmland.org/vote starting in June. Results will be announced during Farmers' Market Week August 2 – 8, 2009.

Apply by July 1 for Farm Safety Awards New York State Agricultural Society

New York State Agricultural Society is sponsoring Farm Safety Awards to recognize farmers who have unique and successful farm safety programs for their employees. Applications must be submitted by July 1 and include a summary of farm safety programs and activities. Nominees are evaluated, and up to two farms are selected to receive recognition and a cash award of \$500 per farm, sponsored by Cargill, Inc. Awards are presented in August at Empire Farm Days.

To apply or nominate a farm, visit [the Ag Society Web site](#) and click on Awards & Contests, Farm Safety. Applications are available online or can be requested by contacting Penny Heritage, New York State Agricultural Society Executive Secretary, at 518-384-1715.

RESOURCES

Small Farms Update May 2009 Cornell Small Farms Program

Here is the May 2009 Small Farms Update. The Small Farms Update is intended as a resource for farmers and agricultural service providers in New York and is provided to you by Cornell's Small Farms Program. Our mission is to foster the sustainability of diverse, thriving small farms that contribute to food security, healthy rural communities, and the environment. Our work is made possible by a network of close partnerships among Cornell faculty and staff, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators and staff, NYS agriculture support agencies, non profit agriculture organizations and farmers.

[Read more>>>](#)

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

We're glad you asked. This month we're featuring **STRAWBERRIES**. If you are a farmer and not listed on this website please send us your contact information.
<http://www.nyfarms.info/strawberries2005.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>.