

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

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NEWS TO SHARE

May 15, 2009

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NEW YORK STATE NEWS

Farmers Treat Employees Fairly And With Respect
New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau today vigorously defended farmers against inflammatory comments made by the self-appointed “rights advocates” about farm employees and their employment conditions. The truth is farm employees in New York enjoy safe and hospitable working conditions, good pay and benefits and have rewarding and long lasting careers in agriculture.

“The modern farm family in New York treats their employees fairly and with respect,” said Farm Bureau president Dean Norton. Farm Bureau is the state’s leading agricultural advocacy group with almost 30,000 member families.

“Every spring, we fall victim to a misinformation campaign that seeks to defame our farm families,” Norton said. “We urge anyone with an interest in agricultural employment—especially the New York State Legislature and Governor Paterson—to consider the facts about the conditions of employment on the farms of New York state.”

[Read more>>>](#)

FDA nominee pledges to revamp food safety
The Associated Press

President Barack Obama's pick to oversee food and drug safety pledged on Thursday to revamp protection of the nation's food supply to help prevent future disease outbreaks.

Dr. Margaret Hamburg, a bioterrorism expert who once served as New York City health commissioner, breezed through her confirmation hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee, with no senators expressing opposition.

Hamburg, 53, said she wants to restore public confidence in the Food and Drug Administration by putting science first and running an open and accountable operation.

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AFBF Seeks Section 32 Funding for Pork Purchases
American Farm Bureau

The Agriculture Department should allocate additional purchases of pork using the Section 32 program to help provide stability to the pork industry which is suffering from lost markets due to the recent outbreak of the H1N1 virus, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF President Bob Stallman requested the Section 32 support for pork in a letter sent today to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

“Low prices for both pork and live hogs have caused financial distress for well over a year for many of our producers,” Stallman said. “The situation has been exacerbated by the recent outbreak of the H1N1 virus and the referencing of the virus as ‘swine flu.’ The banning of pork imports by various countries has added to the problem.”

[Read more>>>](#)

Commissioner Reminds Farmers to Only Sell to Licensed Dealers NYS Department of Ag & Markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today reminded producers of farm products to only sell to licensed farm product dealers and to promptly report to the Department any dealer who does not pay for farm products. This reminder highlights the provisions contained in Article 20 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, more commonly known as the Agricultural Producers Security Law.

[Read more>>>](#)

State funding assists livestock farmers in expanding meat processing NY Farm Viability Institute

New York livestock farmers may be moving closer to launching a slaughter and processing facility that will allow them to sell the meat raised on their farms.

The New York Farm Viability Institute recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Northeast Livestock Processing Service, to help livestock farmers improve profitability through sale of local, farm-raised meats.

Senator James L. Seward and Assemblymember Peter D. Lopez announced the grant funds at events on May 1 at the SUNY Cobleskill Meat and Fisheries Lab and at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County Agro-Forestry Center. Senator James L. Seward said. “this initiative is about giving new life to livestock farmers in our region.”

[Read more>>>](#)

New apple varieties from Cornell, other scientists tested in Syracuse-area orchards The Post-Standard

Walt Blackler is in the middle of an apple experiment. His LaFayette orchard is one of about 30 in the state growing new apple varieties - ones that no one has seen, heard about or tasted before.

He and the other orchard owners have planted the trees, are keeping records of how well they grow in their climate and soil and are checking the fruit to see how it tastes, stores and holds up through the months.

[Read more>>>](#)

Gillibrand Meets With New York Farm Bureau Leaders in Washington, D.C. New York Farm Bureau

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand met today in Washington, D.C. with leaders of New York's Farm Bureau to talk about the challenges facing local farmers and new plans to ensure long term growth of New York's agricultural economy. Senator Gillibrand is the first New York Senator in nearly 40 years to serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Approximately one-quarter of New York is made up of farmland and 42 of New York's 62 counties are rural. New York's agriculture sector contributes nearly \$4 billion to the state's economy each year.

[Read more>>>](#)

Nursery owner joins NYFVI board of directors NY Farm Viability Institute

A nursery and landscape grower from Central New York joined the board of directors of the New York Farm Viability Institute this spring.

Ted Stetler, owner of Marcellus Nursery in Syracuse, was nominated to the board by the NYS Nursery and Landscape Association.

The New York Farm Viability Institute board of directors elected officers to a one-year term at the board's annual organizational meeting, held on April 1 in Syracuse. The Institute is a farmer-led nonprofit group that awards grants for applied research and outreach education projects that help farmers increase profits.

[Read more>>>](#)

Commissioner Announces \$48,000 For Community Gardens NYS Department of Ag & Markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced \$48,250 to help strengthen eleven community gardens. These one-time grants will help enhance existing community gardens by helping build their membership, awareness and educational activities.

“Community gardens are an incredible asset to any neighborhood, and these funds will help increase the capacity of our community garden programs across the state,” said Governor David A. Paterson. “These gardens serve two valuable roles. Primarily, they increase awareness of the importance of buying local foods, helping to reduce the need to

ship food thousands of miles, cutting pollution and our dependence on traditional fossil fuel sources. Secondly, community gardens promote healthy eating, reducing our healthcare costs and improving the quality of life for New Yorkers.”

[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

This edition focuses on acreage reporting for spring planted crops and the few days remaining to sign up for the **2008** SURE program which links eligibility for federal disaster payments to crop insurance participation. Check with your FSA county to learn more about the **exceptions** to the 2008 fee requirements for SURE that include those who qualify as socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmers.

Acreage Reporting

The annual acreage report is a critical component of the crop insurance program. The acreage report determines the amount of insurance provided and the premium charged. The report will show among other things insured crops planted, location of crops, acreage planted, insurance units where crops are located, and cultural practices followed.

Upon completion of planting, acreage must first be certified with your FSA office. Then file the acreage report with your crop insurance agent using the figures from the FSA certification. The acreage report should include any added land, any crop acreage by unit that you were prevented from planting and all farm serial numbers. Acreage reporting dates vary according to crop. Contact your crop insurance agent to confirm deadlines that apply to your operation or go online to www.Farm-Risk-Plans.USDA.gov. Clicking the link to “Regional Office Crop Fact Sheets,” then New York State will lead you to the relevant crop fact sheets. If you are unable to plant your intended acreage, your agent will help you determine whether you qualify for a **prevented planting** payment.

Extension to May 18 for 2008 SURE Enrollment

The federal Stimulus Bill passed in February changed the eligibility requirements for 2008 disaster payments under SURE (Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance) enacted by the Farm Bill and administered by FSA. Farmers who did not purchase crop insurance last year now have until Monday **May 18, 2009** to pay the fee through their county FSA office to become eligible for SURE.

Producers who take advantage of this extension must agree to purchase crop insurance at levels of 70/100 or higher for the next year for which crop insurance is available. Those who purchased less than 70/100 crop insurance for 2008 or those that paid the FSA fee, either previously or within the new extension period, will be considered to have purchased a 70/100 policy for the calculation of the SURE guarantee. Producers who purchased 70/100 crop insurance or greater for 2008 will see their payment factor (as a basis for calculating the SURE guarantee) increased from 115 to 120 percent. For further details, contact your county FSA office or [click here>>>>](#).

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 New York Farm Viability Institute

The New York Farm Viability Institute is accepting proposals for grant funding for projects that assist New York farmers in improving profitability.

The New York Farm Viability Institute annually offers a multi-million dollar, competitive grant program, with funding awarded to projects that help farmers improve profitability, offer models for other farms to follow, and meet farmer-prioritized needs and opportunities within New York State.

The Institute awards grant funds to projects that reflect the diversity of New York agriculture, including the various commodities, sectors, farm sizes, production practices, geographic location, and more.

Farmer groups, researchers, educators, nonprofit groups and privately-owned businesses may apply for funds.

[Read more>>>](#)

FARM TO SCHOOL

Schumer, Gillibrand ask USDA to buy apples for food programs The Daily News

U.S. Sens. Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand Thursday urged United States Department of Agriculture to purchase at least one million boxes of fresh apples for domestic food programs.

The move would provide apples to domestic nutrition programs throughout the state and provide an economic boost to local apple farmers. Without a significant purchase, the apple industry will likely experience long-term economic harm.

"Everybody knows that the best apples come from New York, but without action millions of these gems will go to waste, severely hurting the apple farmers across the state," Schumer said in a news release. "The USDA has the opportunity to help the apple

industry and provide local food programs with a healthy, satisfying food at the same time. We must provide some form of economic relief to our local farmers so that their farms can continue to thrive. I urge the USDA to take immediate action to protect the apple industry in New York and across the country."

[Read more>>>](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Farm Bureau Driving Consumers to Farm Stands New York Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is looking for a few good farm stands--actually lots of them.

Nearly 80 farm stands across New York have already enrolled in Farm Bureau's new farm stand promotion program, "But the door is open for many more," says project coordinator Alan Knight. "The more we have signed up, the more we can help cement the relationship between consumers and local agriculture. There has never been a better time to do that."

The program is simple. A farm enrolls in the program. Farm Bureau publicizes those farms with press releases, paid advertising, point of purchase materials, and its Web site (www.nyfb.org, click on "marketplace"). The farm gives a discount on fresh fruits and vegetables to card-carrying members of Farm Bureau, and makes memberships available at the cash register.

"That's really all there is to it," says Knight, "and farmers really seem to like the idea. Everybody wins: the farmer, the customer, and Farm Bureau."

Despite its government-sounding name, Farm Bureau is an association of farmers and supporters of farming. Founded in 1911, it has nearly 30,000 members in New York and more than six million nationally. Its mission is "to support and strengthen agriculture" and does it with a variety of service programs like this one, as well as lobbying for agricultural interests at the local, state, and national level.

Farmers interested in signing up for the farm stand promotion program can contact Farm Bureau at MemberSupport@nyfb.org or 800-342-4143, extension 5631. They can also write to Farm Bureau at P.O. Box 5330, Albany, N.Y. 12205-0330.

Choice Vendor Spaces still Available Hillside Antiques, Flea & Farmers Market

Opens Weekends thru 27 Sept; Saturday, Sunday & Holidays 9-5 Rain or Shine

Sat May 16 -Giant Pulaski Yard Sale. Join other Vendors (16-17 May only \$5.00 per day Reg \$15.00)

Memorial Day Weekend May 23-24-25 (Sat-Sun_Mon). Buy 2 Days for \$35.00 get 3rd day "FREE"

Snackbar for Rent (Weekends & Holidays). Camp Sites for Rent

Hillside Antique, Flea & Farmers Markets-7753 State Route, Pulaski, NY. 13142
Contact: 315-298-4085

CALL TO ACTION

Facilitators needed for statewide dairy farm profit team launch New York Farm Viability Institute

The New York Center for Dairy Excellence is seeking facilitators to lead dairy profit teams, part of a statewide farm management program to be launched in June.

Dairy profit teams are a group of approximately five advisors that meet regular with a dairy farmer and provide analysis and advice to help farmers make farm business decisions. Farms often identified specific production or business goals to address with the team.

Team members are often Cooperative Extension agents, consultants, and agri-business representatives and may represent financial, crops, feed management, animal health, reproduction, and other farm interests.

[Read more>>>](#)

RESOURCES

Home Winemaking Video Fulkerson Winery & Seneca Lake Wine Trail

Paul Thomas (Seneca Lake Wine Trail) and Steven Fulkerson (Fulkerson Winery) are pleased to present a straight-forward instructional video on Home Winemaking.

This video project came about because Fulkerson Wineries Grape Juice and Home Winemaking Shop (5576 State Route 14, Dundee, NY 14837) is one of the largest and oldest in NY State offering over 30+ fresh New York State grape juice varieties over a six week period each September and October during Fall harvest. The wine making shop is open all year located at Fulkerson Winery, offering all the Home Winemaking supplies needed for producing your own homemade wine. Contact us if you would like to receive a Home Winemaking Grape Juice Booklet (Price Guide & Release Dates). The booklet is published and mailed the first week of September each year and is also available to view at: www.fulkersonwinery.com

Check it out on: [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and SenecaLakeWine.com:

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Glynwood Center

Glynwood Center, in Putnam County, NY, (www.glynwood.org) is seeking a hard-working person to work on our growing mixed species pasture-based livestock operation. Successful applicant will be self-motivated and capable of completing tasks without supervision, and will be capable of working productively as part of a team as well. Responsibilities include: care of cattle, chickens, goats, pigs, sheep, and horses as well as fencing, carpentry work, land maintenance and general farm maintenance. Previous experience with livestock and farm equipment is required. Computer knowledge and livestock record keeping experience a plus. Competitive salary as well as housing on site, vacation, health insurance and 401K offered to the right person. Contact Ken Kleinpeter at 845-265-3338, ext 128, or 914-403-0171. E-mail: kkleinpeter@glynwood.org

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

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

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>.