

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

November 10, 2008

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NEWS FROM NY FARMS

Newyorkfarmersmarket.com Opens This Week to Customer Sales

Morrisville State College

Newyorkfarmersmarket.com is an online farmer’s market for New York State producers. New York Farms! is working with Morrisville State College to develop online markets through this project.

Over the summer months, New York Farms! conducted a series of workshops helping producers to register and publish products at www.newyorkfarmersmarket.com. All New York state producers are welcome to participate.

Customers can buy products from multiple producers at this online storefront and pay a single shopping cart total. Producers ship directly to the customer. Approximately 20% of each sale funds ongoing marketing and technical enhancement of the storefront. The New York Farm Viability Institute funded development of this project.

NEW YORK STATE NEWS

New York Ag in the Classroom Announces Ag Literacy Week

New York Agriculture In The Classroom

New York Agriculture In The Classroom is pleased to announce its 4th annual Ag Literacy Week (formerly Ag Literacy Day), which will coincide with National

Agriculture Week March 16th-20th, 2009. This year the program will highlight the NYS Apple Industry and will also mark the first year in which the book that is used will be written by NYAITC staff. This book will be the first in a series that will highlight New York Agriculture and is titled *Investigate the Empire State: The Applesauce Bandit*. If you are interested in participating in Ag Literacy Week as either a county coordinator, volunteer reader or would like a volunteer to visit your classroom please visit our newly updated website (www.nyaged.org/aite) to find relevant documents and contacts or email Heather Davis at hed24@cornell.edu or phone: 607-255-9253.

Horse owners network, tap into existing resources via CCE Equine

NY Farm Viability Institute

The CCE Equine Project was a perfectly-timed gift horse for Sue Knight of Round Table Training at Paladin Ridge Farm in Ballston Spa, NY, 7 miles from Saratoga Springs. Knight's 32-acre farm business has gone from "just starting up" to having a waiting list of enthusiastic customers.

"The CCE Equine Project helped focus my ideas for growing the business into what horse people are interested in, and into the horse training services that I most want to provide. Now instead of wondering how much work I will have, I have assurance of future business, a timeline for growth, and spend cost-effective time on the farm working with horses," Knight says. [Read More>>](#)

2008 Pro-Dairy Agriservice Award Presented to Doug Shelmidine

Jefferson County Agricultural News Flash Network

Doug Shelmidine of Sheland Farms in Adams NY was awarded the 2008 PRO-DAIRY Agriservice Award by Patrick Hooker, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and Tom Overton, Associate Director of the PRO-DAIRY program at Dairy Day at the New York State Fair on August 25, 2008. The PRO-DAIRY Agriservice Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who make an outstanding contribution to New York State Agriculture through support of the PRO-DAIRY program, which is directly funded through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In addition to his role as owner/operator of Sheland Farms in partnership with his father Don, brother Todd, and their families, Doug has become heavily involved in leadership roles in the dairy industry both within New York and on a national level.

John Lincoln To Retire as Farm Bureau President

New York Farm Bureau

ALBANY -- New York Farm Bureau president John Lincoln will be retiring after 14 years at the helm of the state's leading agricultural organization.

Lincoln's term as president will end in December at NYFB's State Annual Meeting in Albany. Lincoln made the difficult choice not to seek reelection in order to provide others with the opportunity to lead the organization and influence agricultural policy. In

addition, Lincoln is looking forward to spending more time with his family and in his farm business. Farm Bureau farmer member delegates from 52 county farm bureaus will elect a new president in December.

"I am so honored to have been a part of this wonderful, farmer driven organization for all of these years. Farm Bureau has meant more to me and to my family than simply an office. It's been a place where, working together, we've been able to positively advocate for real changes in public policy which have made a difference in the ability of family farmers to live and farm and thrive in New York. Farming is a challenging business, and without Farm Bureau working for farmers with a constant presence in Albany and D.C., farmers simply wouldn't have a voice. We're too busy farming," said Lincoln. [Read more>>](#)

Farm Bureau Concerned About Proposed Dot Regulations

New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau today voiced some concern over a state transportation department (DOT) proposal to limit the use of trucks on state highways and local roads. "We need a balanced approach to trucking changes so that we do not negatively impact agriculture, the biggest industry in the Finger Lakes region," said Farm Bureau president John Lincoln, a dairy farmer from Bloomfield.

NYFB praised the state DOT and Gov. Paterson for hosting an agricultural stakeholder's meeting yesterday to address farming concerns. State officials were responsive at the meeting. [Read more>>](#)

Cayuga Lake Wine Trail's One Millionth Customer

Cayuga Wine Trail Newsletter

This past Saturday on October 25th the Cayuga Lake Wine Trail saw it's one millionth customer grace the doors of Americana Vineyards. The lucky recipients are Jennifer Giroux from Ithaca and Ryan Rutledge from Tyler Hill, PA. The happy couple received a complete package from the Finger Lakes region of New York. The package included a two night stay donated by Latourelle Resort in one of their luxury bedroom suites in their Historic Yellow Barn with a \$200.00 gift certificate to the August Moon Spa, 2 Wine Flutes and a Wine Cooler from MacKenzie-Childs, a Winery Tour from Experience! The Finger Lakes, plus a sampler case of Cayuga Lake Wine Trail wine. [Read more>>](#)

Long Island Study Underscores Need For Immigration Reform

Long Island Farm Bureau

A study recently released by Dowling College shows the need for immigration reform legislation and its potential economic impact on Long Island. The results of the study, which consisted of a local survey distributed to 297 farms, case studies from farmers and agricultural experts and compiled scholarly research, were presented at a news conference on Oct. 6.

“Our objective was to do an unbiased report on the labor needs of local farmers and if possible, determine how an abrupt shortage of workers [due to lack of reform] could impact the Long Island agricultural market and local consumers,” said Judy Brink-Drescher, a lead author of the study.

One section of the report was dedicated to addressing seven common societal misconceptions about undocumented guest workers. One of the more prevalent perceptions is that immigrants are taking jobs away from American workers.

“These farmers are in need of a reliable stable workforce,” co-author of the study Gail Greenwood said. “Our research indicates if Long Island farmers do not have a sufficient workforce, they will likely reestablish in another state or go out of business. Guest workers fill the jobs that many U.S. citizens are not willing to take. Their contributions allow farmers to stay in business.”

New York Farm Bureau Director of Public Policy Julie Suarez addressed reporters’ questions at the news conference. She conceded that, while the economy and the presidential election are rightly top of mind, a viable economic process to bring in a legal workforce must be a priority when the next Congress convenes, as farms cannot continue to operate under the current conditions.

Also attending the press conference were Long Island Farm Bureau President Bob Nolan and NYFB President John Lincoln. Lincoln reminded reporters this is not only a “Long Island problem” and commented that his Bloomfield, N.Y., dairy farm has also encountered similar issues regarding lack of an available workforce.

At the conclusion of the news conference, LIFB Executive Director Joe Gergela put the study’s findings into perspective. “The Dowling Study provides objective support for what farmers across the country have been saying for many years,” Gergela said. “We need a workable process to legally obtain our manual labor. At the onset of the study, we were advised the research would be unbiased and may not support our viewpoint. We took our chances and as it turned out, the study did substantiate the position of LIFB, New York Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau.”

RISK MANAGEMENT

Crop Insurance and You – The New Farm Bill’s Provisions

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

The new Farm Bill has changed the way disaster programs will be administered and now requires farmers to insure all crops on the farm in order to be eligible for disaster payments, should a disaster event occur. This program is not the same as eligibility for disaster loans. Instead, the new SURE program will be providing disaster payments, once a disaster has occurred. (Note: Not all disasters have to be designated.) However, only farmers with all of their crops and all of their acreage covered with either crop insurance or NAP (from FSA) coverage – even if only minimal coverage – will be

eligible. In addition, crop insurance products are changing and there are several newer crop insurance products more suited to farms in the Northeast worth your consideration.

Farmers are independent people, but farming is a high-risk business. Even the best farm practices cannot ensure against weather-related crop destruction. Crop insurance is a risk management strategy that can contribute to your farm's financial stability and can be affordable. Furthermore, producers who purchase higher levels of crop insurance benefit from higher crop insurance and disaster program protection.

When planning your finances, consider where you would be if you lost some portion of your crop and were unable to use the profits from that crop to pay off your costs of production or other bills. Every farmer's financial situation is different, with some debt-free, some with killing debt. Many farmers are comfortable with their own ability to mitigate risks. For example, a grass-based dairy farmer may be comfortable with his strategy of always having an extra year's worth of hay in storage, thus making one year's production losses due to drought or wet harvesting weather much less critical. Many farmers, however, don't have the extra production land for such an approach.

There are different crop insurance products and sign-up deadlines throughout the year. If you grow fruit, you must sign up for insurance before **November 20, 2008**. If you produce hay or are a dairy farmer in one of the 15 pilot counties where a pasture, forage and hay insurance program is being offered, you must sign up by **November 30**. The 15 eligible pilot counties are: Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Steuben, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster.

Crop insurance is complicated. Call your county Farm Service Agency office to find out more about the insurance requirements for disaster programs and the minimal programs that can be used to ensure your crops. However, crop insurance must be purchased from an authorized crop insurance agent. You can also go to the FSA or Risk Management Agency (www.rma.usda.gov) websites for additional information.

If you have any questions, you can also call the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Sarah Johnston, at 518-457-4531. Or email her at: sarah.johnston@agmkt.state.ny.us. We can help direct you to service providers who can help you with risk management and crop insurance decisions. NYSDAM is currently working with the Risk Management Agency and others to provide information to farmers about crop insurance options. Visit our website at: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/CropInsurance.html>

**Commissioner Announces Pasture And Hay Crop Insurance Workshops:
Workshops Designed To Help Farmers Meet November 30th Signup Deadline
*NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets***

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced the dates for crop insurance workshops for pasture and hay crops. As a new pilot program, forage

growers in 15 New York counties will be offered a new “Group Risk Protection” crop insurance program.

“Crop insurance products have become increasingly important in recent years due to weather related crop disasters and are critical to maintaining the economic viability of New York farms,” the Commissioner said. “Now producers must have coverage to be eligible for any federal disaster assistance. Pasture and hay acres account for the largest agricultural acreage in the United States and with 60 percent of the cropland in the 15 New York counties encompassed by forage crops, farmers in these counties should take a close look at this program and make time to attend the meeting in their area.”

The deadline for farmers to apply for coverage under the new “Group Risk Protection” program is November 30, 2008. Farmers should call their crop insurance agent or county Farm Service Agency office for more information. [Read more>>](#)

Deadline For Fruit Insurance Is November 20, 2008: Informational Crop Insurance Workshops Scheduled for Producers

NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today reminded fruit producers that November 20, 2008 is the deadline for obtaining insurance on their crops or making changes to existing crop insurance policies. The Commissioner also announced the dates for informational workshops focusing on crop insurance and how changes in the Federal Farm Bill will impact producers’ eligibility for disaster assistance. Crop insurance products have become increasingly important in recent years due to weather related crop disasters and are critical to maintaining the economic viability of New York farms. The final date for New York producers of apples, grapes and peaches to obtain crop insurance is November 20, 2008. Current policyholders also have until November 20 to make any changes to their existing contracts. [Read more>>](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Rescue Package Has Tax Benefits For Ag

New York Farm Bureau

The financial rescue package passed by the House, 263-171, and signed by President Bush Oct. 3 has a number of tax incentives that benefit agriculture. Of particular note are the “patch” in the alternative minimum tax and extension of the renewable energy production tax credit. The law extends the renewable energy production tax credit, extends the alternative refueling stations tax credit, extends the biodiesel production tax credits and provides a bonus depreciation for property used to produce cellulosic ethanol. It extends the deduction of state and local general sales taxes and extends the enhanced charitable deduction for food donations for farmers using the accrual method of accounting and shortens the depreciation for farm machinery and equipment.

**Farm Credit Proud Sponsors of FFA Star Program at The Big E:
13 Students from New England, New York, and New Jersey Competed for Top Honors**

First Pioneer Farm Credit

Farm Credit associations were proud sponsors of the 2008 Eastern Region FFA Star Recognition Program, an elite competition and award program for FFA students enrolled in agricultural education opportunities. [Read more>>](#)

USDA halts pesticide testing program: Federal agency cites cost for ending data gathering

Chicago Tribune

The Bush administration has abruptly halted a government program that tests the levels of pesticides in fruits, vegetables and field crops, arguing that the \$8 million-a-year program is too expensive. Data from the 18-year-old Agricultural Chemical Usage Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture were collected until this year. And the Environmental Protection Agency used the data to set safe levels of pesticides in food. The program was launched in 1990 to answer congressional concerns over the use of the chemical daminozide, or Alar, on apples. But now USDA contends the program is too expensive. [Read more>>](#)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOFA-NY Opposes Halt of USDA Pesticides Testing

NOFA-NY Editorial Position Announcement

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) strongly opposes the Bush Administration's recent decision to halt the government's testing program on the levels of pesticides on fruits, vegetables, and field crops. This data is extremely important to measure the amounts of pesticide residues on conventional produce--information critical to consumers.

All consumers carry a body burden level of pesticides in our bodies, caused from pesticide residues on conventional agricultural crops that we eat. The USDA data measuring the amount of pesticide residues on specific crops not only helps regulate the amount of pesticides allowed to be applied to specific crops, but it also helps consumers determine which foods have the highest pesticide residue levels so they can avoid those foods when possible and instead choose foods with no synthetic pesticide application, like certified organic foods.

Especially now, as food costs continue to rise and consumers are forced to prioritize their organic food purchases, this data is extremely important. NOFA-NY strongly recommends that the Bush Administration reconsider their decision to end the pesticide testing program, and put the American eater's health first. For comments about NOFA-NY's position, please contact Kate Mendenhall, Projects Coordinator, 585-271-1979, projects@nofany.org, www.nofany.org.

GRANTS

Farmer Grant opportunities with Northeast SARE

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education

Have you got an interesting idea? If you do, the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program has two grant offerings specifically meant for one- or perhaps two-year projects that explore new ideas in sustainable agriculture. Farmers, and the service providers who work directly with farmers, are eligible to apply. Application materials are on the web at www.uvm.edu/~nesare, and you can request applications in print by calling 802/656-0471.

USDA Rural Development Awards \$342,447 To Three New York Agricultural Enterprises

Jefferson County Agricultural News Flash Network

September 8, 2008 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency has awarded more than \$342,000 in Value-Added Producer Grants to three New York agricultural enterprises.

The New York awards are part of a \$19.7 million value-added funding package that was announced last Thursday by Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. The funding is being distributed to 144 projects in 37 states and Puerto Rico.

"The Value-Added Producer Grant program is extremely competitive and I congratulate our New York recipients on a job well done," said Patrick H. Brennan, State Director for USDA Rural Development in New York. "Every value-added project is subjected to a rigorous selection process and applicants must provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds to participate. Being selected is a tribute to the business skill and vision of our three recipients." [Read more>>](#)

AIC Grant Awards: Marketing farm food goal of recent NYFVI grants

NY Farm Viability Institute

Marketing and processing farm-raised food are the focus of projects awarded Agriculture Innovation Center grants. The grants will help producers of wine grapes, maple syrup, fresh produce, value-added products, bottled milk and more. [Read More>>](#)

NY Center for Dairy Excellences awards grants to dairy projects

NY Farm Viability Institute

The New York Center for Dairy Excellence recently awarded grants to 10 projects that address opportunities in dairy farming in New York State, including measuring milk yield, herdsmen skills training and nutrient management on farms.

The NY Dairy Industry Task Force advanced projects they identified as the highest priority for New York farmers and those most likely to produce on-farm results in the near term (two years or less). The Task Force is a volunteer group of more than 80 farmers, agri-business representatives, researchers, educators, government agents and

others that serve as an advisory group to the New York Center for Dairy Excellence.
[Read More >>](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Spanish-language program for dairy workers expands throughout New York *NY Farm Viability Institute*

A program for dairy farmers to train Spanish-speaking employees in calf care, herd health and other on-farm protocols will begin expanding from Western New York across the state, thanks to a recent grant from the New York Center for Dairy Excellence.

[Read More>>](#)

Program attracts youth to dairy farm careers

NY Farm Viability Institute

A hands-on program to attract the next generation into careers as dairy farmers and farm-support jobs – veterinarians, animal nutritionists, financial advisors and more – will expand to reach greater numbers of, and younger, teens.

The Junior Dairy Leader program, an initiative of Cornell University's Pro-Dairy program, recently received grant funding from the New York Center for Dairy Excellence. Junior Dairy Leader promotes dairy careers among youth ages 16-19 through a yearlong, selective program. Teens from around the state receive leadership training and job shadowing on farms and dairy support careers. [Read More>>](#)

New York Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships To Students Studying Agriculture

New York Farm Bureau

Albany, N.Y. - New York Farm Bureau is encouraging high school seniors who have been involved with agriculture and plan on continuing studies in this field to apply for the New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship sponsored by the New York Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee. Scholarship awards are \$1,500 for first place \$1,200 for second and \$1,000 for third place. The first place winner will be invited to present their essay at the annual Spring Conference.

Students applying must have a family Farm Bureau membership or a Student Farm Bureau membership (a membership application may be included with scholarship enclosures). Students are required to submit a brief essay answering the question, "If you had the power to change something in your community or on your farm, what would you change and why?" [Read more>>](#)

Morrisville State College Adds Online Agricultural Classes to its Course Arsenal *Public Relations Office of Morrisville State College*

Morrisville State College will offer three online agricultural courses during the winter term, spring semester and summer term.

The three-credit courses can be applied toward a two-year degree in agricultural business or a four-year bachelor of business administration degree in agricultural business development.

Courses being offered are Agricultural Economics, Marketing Agricultural Products, and Agricultural Finance. [Read more>>](#)

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

Fall 2008 Farmers Market Forum

Farmers Market Federation of NY

The Fall edition of the Farmers Market Forum, the quarterly newsletter of the Farmers Market Federation of NY, is now available on the web.

The link to the Fall 2008 Farmers Market Forum is

<http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/PDF2008/newsletterfall08.pdf>

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

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

Like News to Share, then Join NY Farms! Download membership application at

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