

NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

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NEWS TO SHARE

July 16, 2009

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NEW YORK STATE NEWS

**State Enables Farm Stands To Accept Food Stamps
Pilot Program Helps Match Families in Need with Fresh, Locally Grown Produce
NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets**

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) today announced a pilot program that will help families in need access fresh, local and nutritious produce at farm stands in Chautauqua and Wayne Counties. The program enables farm stands that up until now lacked the capability to accept and process Food Stamps.

“Using Food Stamps should not be a barrier to purchasing fresh, local produce at farmers’ markets,” said Governor David A. Paterson. “This pilot program paves the way for Food Stamp recipients to purchase nutritious food grown by their local farmers, and we hope to expand it statewide. Programs like these increase access to healthy, local food, which is good for New York's families and New York’s farmers.”

[Read more>>>](#)

**Commissioner Meets With Usda Secretary Vilsack
Emphasizes the Need for Assistance for Dairy Farmers at Concord, NH Meeting
NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets**

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today met with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at a town hall meeting in Concord, New Hampshire, where he joined other Northeast agriculture commissioners, emphasizing the serious need for assistance for dairy farmers in New York State and across the nation.

At his first face-to-face meeting with the Obama administration official, the Commissioner thanked Secretary Vilsack for the leadership he has already provided the dairy industry and asked for more direct assistance, explaining the dire need for help on behalf of the State’s 6,200 dairy farmers.

[Read more>>>](#)

Governor Paterson Applauds Introduction Of Federal Legislation To Assist Dairy Farmers

NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets

Governor David A. Paterson today applauded U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for responding to his request to introduce legislation that would provide additional assistance to New York dairy farmers, who continue to struggle with milk prices below the cost of production. The legislation would double the amount of money farmers receive from the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program, a concept similar to what the Governor had proposed in a letter he sent the Congressional Delegation last February.

“Our dairy farmers are some of the greatest contributors to our Upstate rural communities and economy,” said Governor David A. Paterson. “Unfortunately, they are victims to a federal pricing system that is putting their livelihoods at risk. The proposal introduced by Senator Gillibrand is our best hope for some immediate, although short-term, relief. I appreciate the Senator’s commitment to this vital industry and I know that she, along with Senator Charles Schumer and our entire congressional delegation will work tirelessly to provide the assistance our farmers so desperately need at this time.”

[Read more >>>](#)

Cover crops gain ground with vegetable growers

NY Farm Viability Institute

A potato grower in New York’s Southern Tier is one of an increasing number of vegetable farmers using cover crops to control weeds and break disease cycles in the soil.

Andy Leed sells seed potatoes that are certified both organically-produced and disease-free, and supplies tablestock potatoes to a local CSA. He says he is New York’s only double-certified grower, with nods from the Northeast Organic Farmers Association of New York, and New York Seed Improvement Project.

[Read more >>>](#)

Horse farm education program expanding across New York State

NY Farm Viability Institute

A program to provide education, and facilitate resources for horse farm businesses is trotting to horse owners throughout the state.

The CCE Equine program was founded by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County in 2005. From the beginning, educators reached out to surrounding counties in the capital region, and are now attempting to make the service available statewide.

“Our main goal is to help equine farms and related support business to be financially viable, to sustain and grow business,” said Jennifer Conte, an equine educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County.

[Read more >>>](#)

Obama Administration Begins Naming State Executive Directors for the Farm Service Agency USDA Farm Service Agency

The Obama Administration today began naming individuals who will serve as State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency at the USDA.

"These individuals have a solid understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our rural communities and will help build on the Obama Administration's efforts to rebuild and revitalize rural America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Jim Barber: Barber is an Agricultural Promotion Specialist and Special Assistant to the Commissioner for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Through this role, he has become familiar with the state's agricultural challenges and also worked on conservation issues. Barber is very active on agricultural organizations and co-founded NY Farms!, an organization that developed the Farm-to-School program which was later adopted by the State. He has been the 5th generation farm owner and operator of Embar Farms for 19 years. Barber holds a bachelor's degree in general agriculture from Cornell University.

[Read more >>>](#)

Statement from Dean Norton, President of New York Farm Bureau on the appointment of James Barber as executive director of the state Farm Service Agency:

"We are pleased with the appointment of Jim Barber as executive director of the state Farm Service Agency.

"Jim is an active Farm Bureau member from a venerable New York farm family. His vast experience in the industry makes him well suited to serve in this crucial role."

"We look forward to working with Jim and his staff at FSA, helping our New York farm families with the many challenges facing agriculture today"

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Announces New Projects New York Agricultural Development Program

The New York Agricultural Development Program has announced 19 new projects that focus on improving the efficiency and profitability of North Country-specific agricultural production.

Funding through the 2008-2009 New York State Budget and the support of NYS Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, who represents the 45th Senate District, is supporting on-farm research at the Cornell E. V. Baker Research Farm at Willsboro, the W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute at Chazy, the Cornell Uihlein Maple Research Station in Lake Placid and on operating farms in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties.

[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 record keeping, an important component of farm success, as well as two late July deadlines, one for Dairy-LGM with new features for insuring income over feed costs, the other for enrollment in the Fall Forage Seeding policy for 2009.

Record Keeping

Whether one is a beginning or experienced farmer, whether one is enrolled in crop insurance or not, good record keeping practices are a critical risk management tool. One of the often cited outcomes of crop insurance education sessions is increased attention to this aspect of farm management, even by farmers who choose not to purchase crop insurance. Now there is a new RMA publication "Keep Good Records...Protect Your Crop Insurance Interests" that provides detailed answers to frequently asked questions. It is geared to farmers with widely different levels of familiarity with crop insurance. For those farmers with crop insurance, accurate production reports and supporting records ensure paying the premium needed and no more, qualifying for an indemnity payment in the event of a covered loss, and maintaining the integrity of the whole crop insurance program.

The publication is available online at <http://farm-risk-plans.usda.gov/>. Click the Farm Planning Library icon, and you will go to a list of links, including the record keeping brochure in PDF format. Returning to the home page, take time to explore the other sections devoted to Risk Management Planning, Marketing Planning and New Enterprise Planning. This relatively new website has received high marks for the clarity and usefulness of the information available there.

New Dairy-LGM Features Begin with July 31 Period

The Dairy-LGM (Livestock Gross Margin) provides protection against shrinking margins of milk income over feed costs. It can pay when the actual gross margin is less than projected, based on Board of Trade prices. Beginning with the **July 31 enrollment period**, the policy allows a longer time to sign up and authorizes default (or producer's actual) feed to milk ratio.

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**.

If you should experience damage on insured crops, contact your crop insurance agent immediately upon discovery. For further details on any of the above, contact a

crop insurance agent. Agent lists are available at your FSA office or on the web at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/agents/>.

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

Twenty-two farms kickoff New York's statewide Dairy Profit Team program NY Farm Viability Institute

Twenty-two dairy farms across New York State will use teamwork to help improve finances, milk production and much more.

The farms are among the first in the state to sign-up for a Dairy Profit Team, under a program by the NY Center for Dairy Excellence to establish 45 new teams this year.

Dairy Profit Teams are a group of advisors that help a farmer work through defined issues and opportunities on the farm, and develop strategies for change. Team members are often agronomists, veterinarians, animal nutritionists, bankers, and others. They may come from agribusiness, Cooperative Extension, or elsewhere.

[Read more >>>](#)

Applications are still being accepted, and can be printed from the NY Center for Dairy Excellence website [here>>>](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Start a Dairy Profit Team Now-NNY Farming Resources Ready to Help NNY Ag. Development Program

What to do until milk prices recover Brainstorming ideas and developing options to meet the challenges and opportunities facing dairy farmers is what Dairy Profit Teams are all about. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations of Northern New York, the farmer-led Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, and Jefferson County Agricultural Development Corporation are encouraging North Country farmers to form teams with cost-sharing help from the NY Center for Dairy Excellence.

And they are encouraging them to form teams now.

[Read more >>>](#)

RESOURCES

Summer Edition of Farmers Market Forum available

The Summer 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 Summer 2009 Farmers Market Forum is [here>>>](#)

Please feel free to make copies to distribute to the farmers and vendors in your market or direct anyone interested to the website to enroll in the email announcement of the newsletter.

The Summer edition of the Farmers Market Forum is brought to you in partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Market's Pride of New York program. Visit their website at www.prideofny.com

Also sponsoring the Summer edition is Johnny's Seeds. Visit www.johnnyseeds.com for a full catalog.

Farmer Guides for Sale New York Farm Bureau

The New York State Farm Bureau has the following guides for sale- "Farmer's Guide to Labor & Employment Laws", "Farmer's Guide to ICE and Immigration Law Enforcement Activities: An Employer's Rights and Responsibilities", "Farmer's Guide to Truck & Farm Implement Laws & Regulations", "Farmer's Guide to Oil and Gas Leases". The prices are varied and depend on member or non-member status. Please contact Lisa Ovitt lovitt@nyfb.org TEL: (518) 436-8495.

NNY Ag Development Program Posts Carbon Offset Info, Calculator Online NNY Ag. Development Program

The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has posted ag carbon offset and trading information online at www.nnyagdev.org. The effort is a partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), Northern New York Farmers Partnership, Central NY Resource Conservation & Development Council (CNY RC&D) and Vermont Pasture Network at the University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

"These online resources are a way to help North Country farmers learn about ag carbon offset and trading options that may provide marketing, environmental stewardship or financial returns to them," says Rural and Agricultural Development Specialist Bernadette Logozar with Cornell Cooperative Extension Franklin County, Malone, NY.

[Read more >>>](#)

Making Hay in a Day Resources Online for NNY Farmers NNY Ag. Development Program

The latest resources provided by the farmer-guided Northern New York Agricultural Development Program to help northern NY's farmers be more efficient and more profitable offer information on how to "make hay in a day." The website at www.nnyagdev.org offer farmers information on research showing how to harvest hay in one day's time.

In "Wide Swath Research: Open the Mowing Window While Maintaining Forage Quality, recently-retired Cornell Cooperative Extension Educator Tom Kilcer writes, "New York farms that wide swath now have more potential hours for mowing (and) yet still preserve forage quality. Waiting for the dew to dry and the very limited mowing capacity on nearly all farms often means another four to five day delay with major reduction in digestibility.

[Read more >>>](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture Production & Management Educator Wanted

for Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County in Millbrook, NY

General Responsibilities

This Senior Resource Educator provides leadership in planning, implementing, and evaluating innovative and complex educational programs in commercial field crop/vegetable production and business management for the agricultural industry in Dutchess County (Millbrook, NY), including:

- Providing direct program delivery and education utilizing existing program and resources.
- Providing species/variety selection, tillage, fertilization, pest management, harvest, quality and storage production education for farmers.
- Collaborating with other agencies and councils to provide education on environmentally responsible agriculture production practices to protect our water resources.

Other roles include:

- Serving as the primary certified pesticide applicator education contact for CCEDC in cooperation with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).
- Assisting and providing input in program development for complex, specific program initiatives and efforts and the connection to Cornell Faculty, program teams and work teams.

This position is part of the CCEDC Agriculture/Horticulture Program team. As a team member, the person provides in-depth disciplinary support and input into program, evaluation, grants/contracts, marketing research, and program supervision.

See <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/careerops/pa493.htm> for complete PD.

Qualifications

Masters degree with a focus on vegetable and/or field crop production, soils, business management or agricultural environmental management plus 2 years related experience.

APPLICATIONS will be reviewed beginning on **7/18/09**, or until an acceptable pool of applicants has been identified.

Send letter of intent, resume, and transcripts to PA#493, Box 26, Kennedy Hall, Cornell U, Ithaca, NY 14853.

****Individuals who bring a diverse perspective and are supportive of diversity are strongly encouraged to apply. EOE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.cce.cornell.edu>

Assistant Director Wanted For NOFA-NY

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) is the oldest and largest organization in New York devoted to organic and sustainable farming and gardening, and counts over 850 farms among its 1700 members of farmers, gardeners, and eaters.

We are seeking an Assistant Director to work with the Executive Director and other staff to lead the organization's policy initiatives, communication, and grassroots member involvement.

The position requires a self-starter who has policy experience and the ability to translate policy into action. The person must be passionate and knowledgeable about organic farming and gardening and have staff management experience. The Assistant Director is based in Rochester, NY and reports to the Executive Director.

Specific Responsibilities

- In coordination with the Executive Director and policy committee, sets annual policy goals, develops strategies, and coordinates initiatives to meet these objectives.
- Provides high-quality written policy and outreach products, including formal correspondence, weekly press releases, position papers, articles, and fact sheets.
- Represents NOFA-NY at local, regional, and national policy meetings.
- Organizes an annual lobby day in Albany.
- Manages general communications and messaging for the organization, including general outreach materials and membership solicitations.
- Coordinates volunteers and trains speakers' bureau to address statewide outreach.
- Increases and oversees overall communication of the organization to the general public.
- Speaks at public events, forums, legislative hearings, and other venues.
- In coordination with the Executive Director, hires and trains staff and ensures that individual performance goals are met.
- Writes grants to support communications & policy work.

Compensation

Competitive salary, dependent on experience. We offer a full benefits package that includes 100% employer-paid medical insurance and a 403(b) retirement plan.

Qualifications

- Education: Bachelor's degree required. Master's degree preferred.
- Knowledge: Extensive knowledge of sustainable agriculture and policy organizing, including legislative strategies, and advocacy techniques.
- Experience: At least two years experience with legislative and administrative advocacy, coalition building, and a familiarity with agricultural policies and issues.
- Skills: Excellent written and oral communication skills; strong interpersonal, supervisory, strategic planning, and training skills; excellent media skills; strong computer skills required; familiarity with database programs helpful.
- Xapabilities: High energy and enthusiasm. Ability to work well with a wide range of people, work well under pressure, handle multiple tasks at once, and adapt to changing situations on a daily basis.
- Conditions: Strong interest in and commitment to promoting the goals of NOFA-NY. Some statewide travel required.

How to Apply

Position open until filled. Please send cover letter, resume, three references, and a short writing sample to director@nofany.org.

NOFA-NY is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply.

WHAT'S IN SEASON?

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

www.nyfarms.info/beef2005.html

SAVE THE DATE

Calendar of Events

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

Calendar Items of Interest:

Local Farms/Local Markets 2009 Summit

Please join us for the Local Farms/Local Markets 2009 Summit at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls on August 11, 2009 from 10:00 – 2:00. This year's topic is Distribution – Brian Henehan will talk about his research in the morning, followed by a panel of distribution experts discussing their areas of expertise. Pork BBQ lunch will be served about noon, followed by a presentation by Tom Strumolo of Greenmarket. Plenty of time for questions and answers, so please join us for a lively discussion. (Agenda tentative, speakers subject to change.) Price \$30.

Download agenda here <http://www.nyfarms.info/2009SummitAgenda.doc>

Download the registration here: <http://www.nyfarms.info/2009SummitRegistration.doc>

For further information contact Andrea at the NY Farms office, 607 535 9790

NESAWG Conference

It Takes A Region: A Working Conference To Build Our Northeast Food System

WHEN: November 13-14, 2009

WHERE: Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany, NY

This year, NESAWG's annual conference takes on some hard issues. As a region, we need to grow our thinking and our work to develop a truly sustainable and resilient food system. We will get beyond the jargon, myths and fuzzy concepts to come away with a shared vision, coherent strategy and concrete plans.

Through in-depth working sessions, homework, provocative debates, and exercises, we'll tackle questions such as:

- a. Why regional? What does a regional food system look like?
- b. What do we want? What will it take to get there?
- c. Who needs to be at the table?
- d. What are realistic milestones? What do we need to know, measure and monitor?

We'll draw upon the exciting efforts already underway in our region and nationally, including alternative supply chain networks, research projects, infrastructure initiatives and policy advocacy. We'll address scale, size, and geography to reach beyond political boundaries and sector "silos".

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND BE THERE! For more information, contact Kathy Ruhf, NESAWG coordinator.

Kathryn Z. Ruhf: phone/fax 413-323-9878; nesawg@nesawg.org; www.nesawg.org

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