

# NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

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## NEWS TO SHARE

April 19 – May 3, 2007

### NEWS FROM NY Farms!

#### WHAT'S IN SEASON?

We're glad you asked. This month we're featuring spring greens. If you are a producer and not listed on this website please send us your contact information. <http://www.nyfarms.info/whatsinseason.html>

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

##### **Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water**

The Bush administration is helping multinationals buy US municipal water systems, putting our most important resource in the hands of corporations with no public accountability.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/042507EB.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/042507EB.shtml)

#### FARM TO SCHOOL NEWS

**The Institute of Medicine proposed a set of nutritional standards for "competitive" foods and drinks available in schools,** spurred by the rising rate of obesity among American youth and the increasing availability of high-calorie, low-nutrient products on school grounds. The standards promote consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and nonfat or low-fat dairy products and limit the amount of saturated fat, salt, added sugars, and total calories. The standards also restrict the sale of caffeinated items. The standards apply to a la carte cafeteria items, products sold in vending machines and at school stores, and other foods and drinks that are available outside of federally reimbursable school meals, which already must conform to some nutrition guidelines.

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=11899>

##### **Nutrition Standards Urged for Foods Sold in School, Including Vending Machine Items**

Wednesday April 25, By Randolph E. Schmid, Associated Press Writer

Millions of children soon could be saying goodbye to regular colas, candy and salty snacks during school hours. Concerned about the rise of obesity in young people, Congress asked the Institute of Medicine to develop a set of standards for foods that would be available in schools. The Institute responded Wednesday with a two-tier system designed to encourage youngsters to eat more fruit, vegetables and whole grains and to avoid added sugars, salt and saturated fats. Foods listed as Tier 1 would be allowed at all grade levels during the school day and during after-school activities. These foods would have to provide at least one serving of fruits, vegetables, whole grains or nonfat or low-fat dairy, would be limited to 200 calories for snacks and would have limits for fat, sugar and salt. [http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070425/diet\\_school\\_food.html?.v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070425/diet_school_food.html?.v=1)

##### **HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT TO IMPLEMENT: NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS**

Governor Eliot Spitzer and Lieutenant Governor David Paterson today announced legislation to establish nutritional standards for foods and beverages sold, served or offered in elementary and secondary schools. The Healthy Schools Act will for the first time require that nutrition be a crucial element of education in New York's public and other state funded schools. "In the State of New York, childhood obesity has reached crisis levels," said Governor Spitzer. "New York's schools will take the first step in fundamentally influencing children's nutrition and serving as a model environment that supports positive academic performance and healthful behaviors." <http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/0428071.html>

#### NUTRITION NEWS

#### HUNGER NEWS

### **Agriculture minister says U.S. needs more flexibility when offering food aid to foreign countries**

The United States could have difficulties responding to future food emergencies around the world if it does not change how it operates and starts buying food aid from abroad, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Wednesday. During a speech at the International Food Aid Conference in Kansas City, Johanns said America's agricultural system will have to make changes if the U.S. wants to continue being successful in its food-aid efforts.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/04/18/america/NA-GEN-US-Food-Aid.php>

### **High-flying commodity prices crimp U.S. food buying for poor**

**The cutback in the surplus purchases is apparent as Iowa pantries and soup kitchens stock fewer items.**

By PHILIP BRASHER REGISTER WASHINGTON BUREAU April 24, 2007

Not long ago, soup kitchens like the six sites run by Central Iowa Shelter and Services in the Des Moines area could count on the federal government for a wide variety of foods: milk, cheese, meat, fruit juice and canned vegetables. Those foods - provided at nominal cost to soup kitchens, food pantries and feeding programs - came from commodities that the U.S. Agriculture Department purchases in part to prop up the prices paid to farmers. But now the farm economy is booming. Central Iowa Shelter and Services got only some ground turkey and green beans in April.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070424/BUSINESS01/704240384/1029/BUSINESS>

### **Bush Administration Gains Support for New Approach on Food Aid**

By CELIA W. DUGGER Published: April 22, 2007

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/world/22foodaid.html>

### **Oregon Governor Takes the "Food-Stamp Challenge"**

Midway through his pledge to eat for a week on a food-stamp budget, Gov. Ted Kulongoski found himself at dinner with his wife, Mary Oberst, facing a hot bowl of - something.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/050107LA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/050107LA.shtml)

## **FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

For more information please click on the [webpage](#).

## **TRENDS**

### **A Growing Appetite for Specialty Foods**

by Stacy Perman April 19, 2007 Small Biz

Tired of the chains' assembly-line offerings, consumers are increasingly turning to tiny purveyors for quality products and a personal touch [http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/apr2007/sb20070419\\_501045.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/apr2007/sb20070419_501045.htm)

**Organic agriculture an unrealized opportunity for many.** Research out last week from the Iowa State University (ISU) Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture again shows organic farming generates better dollar returns for both the producer and the community. In fact, Dr. David Swenson, the ISU rural economist who conducted the latest research, said that's true even with high corn prices. <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=24DA74BD-D9FB-1725-297EEBDCF405620D>

### **Small farms challenged by federal organic rules**

By Rachael Jackson, The (Wilmington, Del.) News Journal

Some farmers with smaller operations say the requirements of the federally certified organic program can be challenging, even though they may be well-suited to large-scale farms, reported USA Today.

[http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-04-24-organic-farming\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-04-24-organic-farming_N.htm)

### **When the Wine Is Green**

By ERIC ASIMOV April 25, 2007 NY Times

YOU'VE taken your hybrid car out to run some errands. You've stocked up on organic produce and nontoxic cleaning supplies at the supermarket. You've stopped at the Home Depot to take advantage of its new Eco Options plan, picking up energy-efficient light bulbs, paint that is low in pollutants and wood harvested according to the principles of sustainable forestry. You've dropped off the recycling. One more stop to make, the wine shop.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/25/dining/25pour.html?ex=1178424000&en=0978fcee887f6546&ei=5070>

### **Grass-fed beef is hot**

By Karen Bernick 4/11/2007,

Although miniscule in the country's 30 million-head finished beef market, grass-fed production is on the rise. About 60,000 grass-fed cattle were marketed in the U.S. in 2006, compared to 5,000 head in 2000, says Allen Williams, a former Mississippi State University beef specialist who now serves as chief operating officer for Tallgrass Beef Company in Sedan, Kansas. Tallgrass is a grass-fed beef marketer that represents about 200 ranches in the Upper Midwest.

<http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/117632277834.xml>

## **Wheat Forecast: Little Rain, High Prices**

By Tom Polansek and Shane Romig – Wall Street Journal

Sagging global wheat stocks appear on track to remain low as generally unfavorable weather conditions and plans for reduced plantings in major growing areas are dashing hopes that 2007 will be a rebuilding year, analysts said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117803339822188282-search.html?KEYWORDS=agriculture&COLLECTION=wsjie/6month>

### **Brazil could double ethanol production in 10 years, official says**

April 17, 2007 The Associated Press

Reinhold Stephanes said in a statement "there are about 6 million hectares (15 million acres) of sugar cane plantations and about 150 million hectares (370 million acres) still available for agriculture." He said Brazil's current annual production is at 17.5 billion liters (4.62 billion gallons). "If we are intelligent we can increase the cultivation area 10 percent each year in a sustainable way," Stephanes said. "All without causing any environmental damage."

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/04/17/business/LA-FIN-Brazil-Ethanol.php>

### **Food, feed and fuel demand drive prices up**

By Chris Flood Published: May 1 2007 Financial Times

Corn prices eased as weather for spring planting improved. In Chicago, the May corn contract slipped 4¼ cents to \$3.60 a bushel while May wheat fell 9 cents to \$4.91½ a bushel. Jeffrey Currie, head of global commodities research at Goldman Sachs, says a combination of food, feed and fuel demand is driving a structural increase in agricultural commodity prices. "Higher yields will not be able to accommodate the rise in demand growth," says Mr Currie: "Arable acreage will need to grow significantly faster than it has historically. This will be increasingly costly to cultivate, putting upward pressure on long-dated agricultural prices."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/20d25750-f781-11db-86b0-000b5df10621.html>

### **BEEF SECTOR MUST PASS-ON HIGHER FEED COSTS**

Beef producers seem to understand that they will have to reduce the number of females in the herd in order to reduce beef production by 2009 and thereby pass higher feed costs to beef consumers. That process appears to be started, but will take some time. <http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/marketing/weekly/html/042307.html>

### **What the hay?**

April 30, 2007 Washington CEO

The number of organic dairies is growing at such a rapid clip in Washington and Oregon that farmers are struggling to find enough local suppliers of organic feed and hay to support nearly 30,000 organic milk cows in the two states, according to the Washington Agriculture Department. Cows must be fed organic feed for their milk to be certified organic. The Agriculture Department licenses more than 550 dairies in Washington, of which 25 are certified organic through the agency's Organic Food Program. Another 18 are in transition. An additional 20 dairies in Oregon are either organic or are in transition. Six years ago, there were only two organic dairies in Washington. Jay Gordon, executive director of the state Dairy Federation, says that local suppliers to feed companies can't meet the demand for organic meal from soybeans, canola, sunflower or safflower. "Our area farmers are also having a difficult time finding organic hay," Gordon says. "Dairy farmers are concerned about this shortage, and we see a real opportunity for Washington crop growers."

[http://www.washingtonceo.com/index.php?id=90&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=728&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=146&cHash=8a6ca012af](http://www.washingtonceo.com/index.php?id=90&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=728&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=146&cHash=8a6ca012af)

### **Dairy continues to drive higher**

by Bob Meyer May 3, 2007, Brownfield Network

Dairy markets continue to drive higher. As of Thursday, cash cheese blocks on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) have increased 13 days in a row gaining 25.75 cents. As has been the case for the past several months, the powder markets are the driving force. Grade A nonfat dry milk hit \$2.00 on Thursday and whey futures increased from July through March of 2008.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=53B917AC-F108-9BB1-E3072BFC482B48C0>

### **Organic Milk Supply Expected to Surge as Farmers Pursue a Payoff**

By ANDREW MARTIN April 20, 2007 NY Times

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/20/business/20milk.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/20/business/20milk.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

### **Dean shares fall after it predicts organic milk glut**

May 3, 2007 Bloomberg News

Dallas-based Dean Foods Co., the biggest U.S. milk processor, said first-quarter profit rose 21 percent, more than expected, as it passed along higher raw milk costs and sold more organic products. The shares plunged after Dean predicted an organic milk glut. Net income was \$63.8 million, or 47 cents a share, compared with \$52.8 million, or 37 cents, a year earlier when results were reduced by the spinoff of a specialty foods unit, Dean Foods said Thursday in a statement. Sales rose 4.8 percent to \$2.63 billion.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/050407dnbusdeanearns.59e34d.html>

**AG STOCK PRICES CONTINUE TO SOAR** In the past 12 months, the stock value of companies that are publicly traded and have a significant presence in the ag industry have climbed over 59%. During that same time period, the S & P index has risen 29%.

[http://www.agrimarketing.com/show\\_story.php?id=44959](http://www.agrimarketing.com/show_story.php?id=44959)

### **FOUR LARGEST FERTILIZER COMPANIES INCREASE NET INCOME BY \$332 MILLION**

[http://www.agrimarketing.com/show\\_story.php?id=45072](http://www.agrimarketing.com/show_story.php?id=45072)

### **Why lawn mowers are getting greener.**

Consumer Reports May 2007

Today's lawn mowers and tractors generate more than 70 percent less exhaust emissions than they did in 1995. But they're about to become cleaner still as concerns about global-warming and other environmental issues heat up.

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/home-garden/lawn-garden/mowers-and-tractors-5-07/cutting-lawn-mower-emissions/0507emi.htm>

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **CEOs press Bush on trade talks**

April 18, 2007 Bloomberg News

Chief executives of the biggest Wall Street firms Tuesday urged President Bush to make greater access to overseas markets for U.S. financial services a higher priority than it is now. Such a shift could come at the expense of manufacturers and farmers, groups that also are lobbying the White House on trade.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-wrap18.3apr18.0,1906202.story>

### **Key WTO negotiator wants US to cut domestic subsidies**

by Julie Harker April 30, 2007, Brownfield Network

The chief negotiator of World Trade Organization talks is calling on the United States to cut the amount of domestic subsidies it is requesting. In a 28-page report issued Monday, New Zealand's Crawford Falconer, chairman of the WTO's special committee on agriculture, says the U.S. should not be allowed to "spend more on overall trade distorting domestic support" than when it came into the Doha trade talks. Ag issues have been a sticking point in the ongoing trade negotiations. The U.S. is seeking to cut subsidies to 22-Billion dollars, but Falconer says there's no reason it should get more than what it came in to the talks with, 19-Billion. He also says the European Union would have to make a lower offer on its import tariffs on farm goods.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=44366A7F-D960-78E6-473649C1831E90EA>

### **White House Aims at Non-Iraq Money**

By ANDREW TAYLOR , May 1, 2007 The Associated Press

The White House is taking aim at much of the \$21 billion in congressional add-ons to President Bush's funding request for the Iraq war. Billions of dollars for heating subsidies, farmers and wildfire fighting are likely to be dropped when lawmakers draw up a second bill after Bush's veto of the first. Additional money for the Pentagon, veterans and hurricane victims is likely to survive.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/01/AR2007050101376\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/01/AR2007050101376_pf.html)

### **EU-U.S. summit call for "urgent" climate action**

By Steve Holland Apr 30, 2007

The European Union and the United States agreed on Monday that global warming is an "urgent" priority, and President George W. Bush conceded he must work to convince Russia of the need for a missile shield in Europe.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070430/ts\\_nm/usa\\_eu\\_dc](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070430/ts_nm/usa_eu_dc)

### **Food safety put on new czar's plate at FDA**

**An agency medical officer is named to form a new plan of defense against domestic and imported hazards to consumers.**

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Abigail Goldman, Times Staff Writers May 2, 2007

Bowing to growing nationwide concern, the Food and Drug Administration named a food safety czar Tuesday and pledged to develop "a visionary strategy for food safety and defense" that takes into account increasing U.S. dependence on food imports in a global economy. The development came as the agency said its investigation of contaminated pet food ingredients from China had expanded to include feed eaten by millions of chickens that most likely already have been consumed in the U.S.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-fda2may02,0,733831.story>

### **FDA Formalizes Proposal to Regulate Herbs, Vitamins**

The federal Food and Drug Administration is proposing to regulate a wide variety of alternative medicine products, from vitamin, mineral and herbal supplements to lotions and stones used by massage therapists.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/041907HA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/041907HA.shtml)

### **FDA Was Aware of Dangers To Food: Outbreaks Were Not Preventable, Officials Say**

By Elizabeth Williamson Washington Post Staff Writer Monday, April 23, 2007

The Food and Drug Administration has known for years about contamination problems at a Georgia peanut butter plant and on California spinach farms that led to disease outbreaks that killed three people, sickened hundreds, and forced one of the biggest product recalls in U.S. history, documents and interviews show. Overwhelmed by huge growth in the number of food processors and imports, however, the agency took only limited steps to address the problems and relied on producers to police themselves, according to agency documents.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/22/AR2007042201551\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/22/AR2007042201551_pf.html)

### **Food Imports Often Escape Scrutiny**

By ALEXEI BARRIONUEVO Published: May 1, 2007 NY Times

Early in the 20th century, the safeguarding of food at American ports often amounted to inspectors from the Food and Drug Administration prying open containers of molasses or sugar and examining them for mold or insect parts.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/01/business/01food.html?th&emc=th>

### **Filler in Animal Feed Is Open Secret in China**

By DAVID BARBOZA and ALEXEI BARRIONUEVO April 30, 2007 NY Times

As American food safety regulators head to China to investigate how a chemical made from coal found its way into pet food that killed dogs and cats in the United States, workers in this heavily polluted northern city openly admit that the substance is routinely added to animal feed as a fake protein.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/30/business/worldbusiness/30food.html?th&emc=th>

### **Hogs That Ate Melamine Unfit for Humans, FDA Rules**

Up to 6,000 hogs that ate pet food tainted with industrial chemicals cannot be safely sold to humans, federal authorities said yesterday, and should be euthanized at the farms where they have been held from the market. Several hundred of the swine have already entered the human food supply.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/043007HA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/043007HA.shtml)

**The Senate voted in favor of stricter production and labeling standards** so people have more information about what they are feeding their pets. The amendment also called on the government to create a pet version of the system that now tracks food contamination and outbreaks of illness and death in people, reported *The New Tribune*.

<http://www.thenewtribune.com/358/story/53689.html>

### **USDA exposes Social Security numbers to theft, again**

by Peter Shinn April 23, 2007, Brownfield Network

USDA said Friday it accidentally put the Social Security numbers of 63,000 people on a web site, accessible by the public, for those receiving various payments from USDA. On Monday, USDA reduced that number to 38,700 people. The Agency is now offering free credit monitoring for a year to those whose identifying information may have been exposed.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=1F7400E6-C139-9C69-DEE899C8CBEC8AF7>

### **USDA promises to do better on protecting personal info**

by Peter Shinn May 2, 2007, Brownfield Network

Last month, USDA announced it had accidentally published the Social Security numbers of over 29,000 farm and rural development program participants on a public Internet web site. And Wednesday, the House Agriculture Committee held a hearing on data security at USDA. USDA Chief Financial Officer Charles Christopherson was the primary witness. He opened his remarks with an apology and a promise. "We regret the incident that has occurred," Christopherson intoned. "We are committed to taking care of the individuals who are affected and we will fix the problems that led to this issue." According to Christopherson, USDA had attempted to contact all those who had had their Social Security numbers inadvertently released, and had reached all but a couple of dozen. He said those affected had been offered a free year of credit monitoring and a \$20,000 insurance policy against the threat of identity theft. Christopherson also said USDA had quickly removed the Social Security numbers, which were embedded in a longer, 15-digit account number, from the public web site on which they'd been published. In fact, Christopherson testified that USDA had already begun a data security project over 10 months ago, shortly after the Veterans Affairs Department lost over 26,000,000 Social Security numbers. USDA's goal, Christopherson said, is to replace Social Security numbers as record identifiers within all of USDA's information technology (IT) systems. But with 56 separate IT systems to go through, Christopherson told lawmakers the project could take a long, long time. "This will take numerous years on some of these older systems to, basically, remediate and contain the information," Christopherson said. In the meantime, Christopherson promised USDA would do a better job of protecting the personal information farmers and ranchers had entrusted to it. And he suggested protecting Social Security numbers from unauthorized access is a more immediate priority than replacing them as record identifiers.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=4E7FD4CC-C5FB-8DF4-A1423D0E5E087966>

### **Global Effort to Save Endangered Crops Gets \$37.5 Million Infusion**

April 19, 2007, Thursday By ANDREW C. REVKIN New York Times

Scattered around the world in jars, fields, freezers and vaults are tens of thousands of endangered varieties of wheat, yams and 19 other crops that underpin the global food supply. With disturbing regularity, experts say, this agricultural bounty is eroding as war, storms, scant money or bad management, particularly ...

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/19/science/earth/19farm.ready.html?ex=1334635200&en=b077a03e9650b189&ei=5088&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss>

### **Grassley's mandatory arbitration limit bill slated for hearing**

by Julie Harker May 1, 2007 Brownfield Network

A bill to limit mandatory arbitration in contracts between farmers and agri-business firms is expected to come up in the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. Co-sponsor Chuck Grassley of Iowa says the measure should be taken up on Thursday. He says the bill would allow farmers the opportunity to choose the best form of settlement and prevent them from having to submit to packers through mandatory arbitration. Grassley says he also hopes to introduce his payment limit legislation with Senator Dorgan soon. Grassley says they're "still working out the kinks" and plan to complete it before the farm bill comes up.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=4947E810-0BE4-E195-4BECCCD68928228C>

### **ATTRA Funding Eliminated from 2007 Spending Bill**

In February NCAT learned that annual funding for our ATTRA project was cut when Congress passed a Continuing Resolution bill which funded the federal government through the remainder of the 2007 fiscal year. Because the fiscal year started in October of 2006, USDA had luckily already approved some bridge funding for the project. That will provide the resources to keep ATTRA operating, although at a much reduced level for the remainder of the year (loss of 60% of our annual project budget).

[http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-digest/ATTRAnews\\_Spring07.pdf](http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-digest/ATTRAnews_Spring07.pdf)

### **American Farm Bureau Federation urges House to support Water Act**

by Julie Harker April 19, 2007, Brownfield Network

The American Farm Bureau Federation is urging Congress to support the Water Resources Development Act that would update the locks and dams on the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers and authorize other projects. In a letter sent to all House members this week, AFBF President Bob Stallman said WRDA is critical for U.S. commerce, especially agriculture. He says a medium-sized tow on the river can transport the same weight as 870 trucks, so the importance of efficient shipping of farm commodities on the rivers is not overstated. Stallman says it's essential to update the locks and dams to be globally competitive.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=0BA9DFCD-C116-388A-016AE94B2A1E62C2>

### **USDA working on crop insurance fixes**

by Peter Shinn May 1, 2007 Brownfield Ag News

Most agree the federal crop insurance program hasn't come close to becoming the farm safety net that many envisioned when Congress revamped the program in 2000. But top USDA officials Tuesday told the House Agriculture Committee on General Commodities and Risk Management that changes may be coming to address some of the biggest challenges. Problems covering those with multi-year losses and coverage gaps left by big deductibles mean crop insurance hasn't become a substitute for federal ag disaster aid, a fact noted by House Ag Committee Chairman Collin Peterson during the hearing on the crop insurance industry. "We still have not accomplished one of the things that we were trying to, I think, back then," Peterson said, "and that is to eliminate the need for these ad hoc disaster programs."

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=4931A616-EA7E-B624-6BE5606916B50E92>

**Crop Insurance:** In an update posted today at The Des Moines Register webpage, Philip Brasher reported that, "The growing profits that crop insurance companies are making from selling their federally subsidized policies is catching the eye of Congress...Profits from crop insurance are three times as high as the rate of turn that insurance companies normally get from property and casualty insurance, government investigators told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee."

[www.FarmPolicy.com](http://www.FarmPolicy.com) posted May 3, 2007

### **Canada confirms new case of BSE**

By Tom Johnston on 5/3/2007 for [Meatingplace.com](http://Meatingplace.com)

The Canada Beef Export Federation indicated that the confirmation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in a mature dairy cow from British Columbia on Wednesday shouldn't affect beef exports to open markets. "This most recent case may serve to delay the reopening of the Taiwan market (that) was anticipated to occur later this month," Ted Haney, president of CBEF, said in a press release. "The Canadian government is addressing the potential delay."

[http://www.cattlenetwork.com/meatingplace\\_content.asp?ContentID=126708](http://www.cattlenetwork.com/meatingplace_content.asp?ContentID=126708)

### **NFU: BSE Case Reason to Implement COOL**

Canada confirmed its tenth BSE case today, prompting Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., to introduce legislation that would prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from allowing imports of Canadian cattle over 30 months of age or boxed beef from Canadian cattle of any age until mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) has been implemented in the United States. National Farmers Union President Tom Buis released the following statement: "Today's confirmation of Canada's tenth case of BSE is very troubling. It becomes even more disturbing when you consider that USDA has proposed to re-open the Canadian border and allow live cattle imports born after March 1, 1999 and beef of any age into the United States. The Canadian border should remain closed until mandatory COOL is implemented and Canada can demonstrate that its problem is under control."

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/content.asp?contentid=127017>

### **Harkin says Canada's feed ban not working**

by Peter Shinn May 3, 2007 Brownfield Network

Canada announced Wednesday it had discovered its tenth case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in an animal born around November of 2001, more than four years after Canada implemented a ruminant-to-ruminant feed ban. USDA has a final rule pending that will, essentially, allow all Canadian cattle born after March of 1999 into the U.S.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=5379CB12-9D7F-27AF-B5A8758C2DD8E162>

### **Honeybee die-off threatens food supply**

By SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer May 2, 2007

Unless someone or something stops it soon, the mysterious killer that is wiping out many of the nation's honeybees could have a devastating effect on America's dinner plate, perhaps even reducing us to a glorified bread-and-water diet.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070503/ap\\_on\\_sc/honeybee\\_die\\_off;\\_ylt=ArnMR8w90JWEPRdwBdhu065vieAA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070503/ap_on_sc/honeybee_die_off;_ylt=ArnMR8w90JWEPRdwBdhu065vieAA)

### **U.S. Foodservice to be sold to private-equity firms**

By Ann Bagel Storck on 5/4/2007 for [Meatingplace.com](http://Meatingplace.com)

Dutch supermarket operator Royal Ahold has agreed to sell U.S. Foodservice to two private-equity firms for \$7.1 billion. Under the agreement, the Columbia, Md.-based food distributor would be acquired by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, both New York-based private-equity firms.

<http://www.meatingplace.com/MembersOnly/webNews/details.aspx?item=17941>

### **Johanns defends strong corn prices**

Thursday, April 19, 2007, 3:11 PM by Peter Shinn Brownfield Network

There's been no end of worry voiced about corn prices, which now range between \$3.00 and \$3.50 a bushel on a flat cash basis, and can run even higher in certain locales. And the issue emerged again during a question and answer session U.S. Ag Secretary Mike Johanns conducted after an address Wednesday at the USDA-USAID annual International Food Aid Conference in Kansas City Wednesday.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=0B785D57-A2AE-2186-85E88FF8DE7E985A>

**Johanns Urged by 37 Organizations to Reconsider Decision on Allowing Penalty-Free Early Outs From CRP to Meet Corn Demand** During and subsequent to the release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) initial plantings intentions report on March 30, Johanns said that penalty-free early release of CRP acres would not be permitted in 2007. At that time, he also said he would delay a decision on whether to allow penalty-free early outs from the CRP for 2008. The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and the other organizations noted that weather uncertainties between now and harvest – including the delay in spring corn planting – could adversely affect the size of the 2007 corn crop. The groups encouraged Johanns to reconsider his decision that no acreage be released from the CRP penalty-free in case such action is warranted to meet food, feed, fuel and export needs.

[http://www.grainnet.com/articles/Johanns\\_Urged\\_by\\_37\\_Organizations\\_to\\_Reconsider\\_Decision\\_on\\_Allowing\\_Penalty\\_Free\\_Early\\_Outs\\_From\\_CRP\\_to\\_Meet\\_Corn\\_Demand-43950.html](http://www.grainnet.com/articles/Johanns_Urged_by_37_Organizations_to_Reconsider_Decision_on_Allowing_Penalty_Free_Early_Outs_From_CRP_to_Meet_Corn_Demand-43950.html)

**Ethanol is raising food prices about \$50 a year per person**, says an Iowa State University economist. The ethanol boom has raised demand for feed corn, and that has increased the price. Now those increases are rippling through the food chain, touching everything from the price of eggs (because of chicken feed) to the cost of soft drinks (which use corn sweeteners), reported TwinCities.com. [http://www.twincities.com/business/ci\\_5796051?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.twincities.com/business/ci_5796051?nclick_check=1)

### **Making ethanol of corn takes far too much water**

May 1, 2007 Modesto Bee Editorial

Businesses all over California are racing to build plants to make ethanol, an additive or substitute for gasoline that might — or might not (depending on the study) — lower greenhouse gas emissions. There's even a plan to build such a plant along Highway 99 in Keyes. Setting aside any objections about location or environmental impacts, we wonder whether anyone has thought about what goes into making ethanol. Namely, how much water it will take to grow all that corn. Many crops can be distilled into ethanol, but most makers are choosing corn. And corn is the most water-intensive of all the possible ethanol crops. How much water? How much corn? The answers are startling.

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/story/13538510p-14142575c.html>

### **CSREES FUNDS WATER QUALITY CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**

Homeowners throughout the Chesapeake Bay region can make a significant impact in protecting the bay, according to a new educational campaign by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Program (MAWQP), which is funded by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). MAWQP partnered with the Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to create the "Healthy Lawns, Clean Water" campaign to educate homeowners about proper fertilizer application techniques to reduce nutrient loss. The campaign encourages homeowners to do their part in protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2007news/regional\\_waterquality.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2007news/regional_waterquality.html)

**Current federal subsidies are doing little to preserve rural communities and the government needs to do more** to help these farmers move into the growing market for organic products, according to testimony at a House hearing on organics, reported *The Des Moines Register*. Small-scale organic operations run by young farmers could make a difference, but federal help is needed to get them started, according to Robert Marqusee, economic director of Iowa's Woodbury County.

<http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070419/BUSINESS01/704190381/1030>  
[House Agriculture Committee Release](#)

## **NEW YORK STATE NEWS**

### **SPECIALTY SHOPS FEATURE PRIDE OF NEW YORK FOOD AND WINE**

#### **Pride of New York Program Helps Stores Respond to Demand for Local Products**

The Pride of New York Program today recognized the increasing number of specialty shops and stores carrying New York State products. Utilizing the Pride of New York Program, these businesses feature everything from fine wines to fabulous foods and show consumers what it means when Pride of New York members say, "Our Pride is Inside." "Consumers want to buy from local businesses and support their local economy," said New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker. "Buying New York State food and wine is a way to help ensure that what we eat and drink are fresh, high-quality products. These specialty shops are excellent ways for consumers to easily locate local food products and truly get a sense for regional flavors and what the Pride of New York means." The Pride of New York Program is designed to help consumers identify locally grown and produced products where they shop and dine. The Program assists these specialty shops with signage and marketing materials to help promote their

local themes. There are nearly 2,000 Pride of New York members, including growers, wineries, food processors, and food retailers, that benefit from the Program's marketing services. For more information on the Pride of New York Program, visit [www.prideofny.com](http://www.prideofny.com). Full press release: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=1609>

### **GREENHOUSES OPEN FOR SEASON, OFFER MORE THAN JUST FLOWERS**

#### **Western New York Greenhouses Host "Make it for Mom" Promotion This Weekend**

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today reminded New Yorkers to support local greenhouses and nurseries when purchasing flowers and plants this spring. New York's "green industry" includes nearly 800 commercial greenhouses, nurseries and garden centers statewide. Local greenhouses and garden centers offer many varieties of greenery, as well as fruit trees and vegetable plants. Greenhouses make significant contributions to local communities by generating economic activity, creating jobs, keeping land open and productive, and enhancing the aesthetics of homes, schools, businesses and parks. New York ranks fifth in the nation for floriculture production, generating \$200 million last year. Bedding and garden plants are the largest component of the industry with \$111 million in sales, followed by potted flowering plants that had nearly \$50 million in sales last year. New York growers maintain 25 million square feet of space under greenhouses and temporary growing facilities. With Mother's Day around the corner, several Western New York greenhouses and garden centers will be promoting "Make it for Mom" on Saturday, May 5, an event that will allow families to assemble their own planters and hanging baskets. For a list of participating garden centers, visit [www.nysfi.org](http://www.nysfi.org) Full press release: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=1611>

### **30 NY FOOD COMPANIES TO ATTEND WORLD'S LARGEST FOOD SHOW**

#### **State Helps NY Companies Market Products to Buyers Around the World**

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced that nearly 30 New York food companies will exhibit at the world's largest food show at Chicago's McCormick Place, May 6-8, 2007. The annual food show is referred to as the "Power of Five" and includes the U.S. Food Export Showcase, the United Produce Expo, the Food Marketing Institute Show, the Fancy Food Show and All Things Organic. The show attracts more than 30,000 buyers from around the world and provides a convenient and cost-effective means to connecting hundreds of food companies with thousands of buyers. <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=1608>

**There are hundreds of hot sauces on the market today and many are made in Western New York**, reported *The Buffalo News*. Some of the hot sauces include Anchor Bar Wing Sauces, and Bear-Man sauce, which was developed by a husband and wife team and is packed by Nelson Farms in Central New York. Its Growlin' Grizzly variety was selected as a finalist in the 35th annual product awards competition at the Fancy Foods Show in July. <http://www.buffalonews.com/185/story/66543.html?imw=Y>

### **STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER PATRICK HOOKER**

#### **Regarding Status of New York State Dairy Assistance Program**

"Applications for the New York State Dairy Assistance Program continue to come into the Department and we are processing that information as quickly as possible. Currently, we believe that the vast majority, approximately 90 percent, of eligible milk has been accounted for in the applications received thus far. For those producers that sent in their applications that were complete and accurate by April 27, 2007, payments are still expected to be made on May 9, 2007. Since there still may be eligible milk unaccounted for and to ensure that every producer has the opportunity to apply for this funding, we will continue to accept applications while we process payments and review applications in question. Therefore, if you have not yet sent in your application, it is critical that you do so now." <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AD/release.asp?ReleaseID=1607>

### **Dairy farmers stress survival needs**

By LOREN KENT Special to the OBSERVER 4/18/2007

Dairy farmers in Chautauqua County have seen their profits evaporate over the last 10 years. Now, as milk prices lag behind soaring costs, they're trying to do something about it by building political support for dairy farmers. <http://www.observertoday.com/articles.asp?articleID=11569>

**THOUSAND ISLANDS-SEAWAY WINE TRAIL** will have its grand opening on Thursday, May 24, officially inaugurating New York's newest wine trail in an area most people never before associated with grapes and wine. Thanks largely to the leadership of Steve Conaway of Thousand Islands Winery in Alexandria Bay, with legislative support from Senator James Wright and Assemblyman Darrell Aubertine in getting wine trail legislation, the trail is now a reality. (Wine Press 4/29/07)

### **Farm Balancing Act: Northern NY Project Blends Crop Production, Profitability and Environmental Protection**

With increasing crop production costs and greater environmental regulation of dairy farms, the question for farmers in Northern New York is are fields too full or not full enough of nutrients essential for high crop yields and good stewardship practices. Research funded by the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is studying how to achieve optimal nutrient balance for both crop production, farm profitability and environmental protection. <http://nnyagdev.org/press-04-25-07.htm>

### **The New York State Legislature has appropriated \$400,000 to the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program**

for projects to evaluate the opportunities to produce biofuels and enhance the production of dairy, maple, cold-hardy grapes, and field crops in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. The NYS Budget funding will also support projects to increase agricultural environmental stewardship practices on NNY farms and conduct research on coping with the invasive species crop pest, the alfalfa snout beetle. The Northern New York Development Program supports agricultural research, demonstrations and outreach in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties with the goal of enhancing

agricultural productivity and profitability while protecting the region's soil, water and other environmental resources.  
<http://nnyagdev.org/press-04-27-07.htm>

### **Research Shows Wide Swath Haymaking Can Produce Faster, Higher Quality, Less Costly Forage**

Contacts: Debbie J.R. Cherney, Cornell University, 607-255-2882;

Peter Barney, Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County, 315-379-9192

Farmers in New York are changing the way they make hay. Research by Cornell University researchers and its Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, working with funds from the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program (NNYADP) and the New York Farm Viability Institute, Inc. suggests farmers can use wide swath mowing to shorten the drying time and increase the quality of their forage. Wide swath mowing spreads the cut forage out to 90 percent or more of the cut width, creating up to three times more sun exposure compared to narrow windrows.

Wide swathing research pioneer Thomas F. Kilcer, of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County says with the right weather, some wide-swathed hay has dried to optimum moisture levels in as little as three to five hours. In one research trial with unusually dry weather conditions the drying time of a grass crop to ready-to-chop levels was recorded as less than one hour. A narrow swathed crop can take days to dry and is at risk of complete loss due to prolonged exposure to wet weather.

**Both the United States Senate and Assembly Agricultural Committees held hearings on various topics.** A complete list of witnesses who testified at the House hearing, along with their opening statements, can be viewed by clicking here.

<http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html> Recordings of The Senate hearings can be viewed here:

<http://agriculture.senate.gov/Hearings/hearings.cfm?changedate=04/01/07&organizeby=bymonth>

New York had several individuals testify:

#### **Tuesday, April 24, 2007 Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry — Public Hearing.**

RE: Review of Federal Milk Marketing Order rulemaking procedures.

[Mr. Eric Ooms](#), Dairy Farmer, Old Chatham, New York

[Mr. Ed Gallagher](#), Federal Order Analyst, Dairylea Cooperative Inc., Syracuse, New York

#### **Wednesday, April, 18, 2007 Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture — Public Hearing.**

RE: Review of economic impacts of production, processing, and marketing of organic agricultural products

[Ms. Mary-Howell R. Martens](#), Lakeview Organic Grains, Penn Yan, New York

#### **Thursday, March 29, 2007 Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture – Public Hearing.**

RE: Public Hearing to review the colony collapse disorder in honey bee colonies across the United States

[Mr. Jim Doan](#), Commercial Bee Keeper, Hamlin, New York

### **The Gothman Prophecies: New York City mayor unveils ambitious sustainability plans**

Thomas J. Lueck, 23 Apr 2007 [The New York Times](#),

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg used Earth Day to announce plans to make his burg bloom. The comprehensive "PlaNYC" outlines 127 green dreams, including a congestion charge for lower Manhattan that would -- like programs in London and Singapore -- see drivers cough up a fee for entering the city at peak traffic hours. Bloomie also wants to improve public transportation, plant more than 1 million trees, and clean up 7,600 acres of polluted brownfields. The plan would make the Big Apple "the first environmentally sustainable 21st-century city," he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair concurred in a video appearance, saying the plan would "mark out New York as a global leader in halting climate change." Bloomberg's big ideas face a couple of big obstacles -- state leaders in Albany and money, money, money -- but the biz-minded mayor was optimistic: "Our economy is humming, our fiscal house is in order and our near-term horizon looks bright," he said. "If we don't act now, when?"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/23/nyregion/23mayor.html?ex=1334980800&en=1fbbb54923b57e1e&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss>

**Grassland Evaluation Contest Held** - On April 30, 19 students from Penn Yan (Yates County), Belleville (Jefferson County), and Fillmore (Allegany County) high schools competed for scholarships and conservation knowledge bragging rights at the Second Annual Grassland Evaluation Contest held at the Big Flats Plant Materials Center in Corning, NY. The contest is designed to test the students' knowledge of agriculture, grazing, and managing resources to meet livestock needs, balanced with protecting wildlife habitat. The teams, made of four students involved in Future Farmers of America or 4-H from across the entire state, evaluated plots of land for four different topics: grassland condition, soil evaluation, wildlife habitat considerations, and plant identification. The students took a test at each of four outdoor stations. The event is a challenge for the students requiring that they use their knowledge in a variety of subjects and apply it to real life conditions for managing a grazing herd of animals," said JoAnn Kurtis, Seneca Trail RC&D Council Coordinator. Troy Bishopp, Chairman of the NYS GLCI Steering Committee awarded Penn Yan Academy the first place finish. Penn Yan's team, coached by John Kriese, consisted of Sarah Voak, Elizabeth Martens, Peter Martens, and Ryan Christiansen. The members are now eligible to compete in the national contest to be held in Missouri this June. The second place award went to the school who won the contest last year, Belleville-Henderson team #1, who finished one point ahead of the team from Fillmore Central. The High Scoring Individual award was presented to Dave Furman from Belleville-Henderson team #2. The contest was sponsored by Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development Council, NYS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Finger Lakes RC&D Council, R&R Fencing, and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information, contact JoAnn Kurtis at 716-699-2375 ext. 5. – GLCI Gazette May 2007

**MARCH MILK PRODUCTION DOWN.** New York dairy herds produced 1.02 billion pounds of milk during March according to Stephen Ropel, Director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field office. Milk cows declined from the previous year while milk per cow was unchanged from the previous year resulting in a 3 percent decline in milk production compared to March 2006. The number of milk cows averaged 628 thousand head, down 17 thousand head from March of the

previous year. Milk per cow averaged 1630 pounds, unchanged from the March 2006 rate. Dairy farmers in the Empire State received an average of \$15.60 per hundredweight of milk sold during March, up 30 cents from February and \$2.40 above March a year ago. Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from March 2006. February revised production, at 13.1 billion pounds, was up 0.6 percent from February 2006. The February revision represented a decrease of 31 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for March, 7 pounds above March 2006. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 58,000 head more than March 2006, and 5,000 head more than February 2007.

**NEW YORK EGG PRODUCTION UP 10 PERCENT IN MARCH.** Egg production on New York farms totaled 100 million eggs in March 2007, up 10 percent from last year, according to Stephen Ropel, Director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York office. The number of hens and pullets of laying age, at 4.13 million, increased 9 percent from March 2007 and the rate of lay increased slightly to 24.22 eggs per layer. A dozen eggs brought New York poultry farmers an average of 70.8 cents for eggs sold in March, up 6.5 cents from February and up 19.7 cents from March 2006. U.S. egg production totaled 7.77 billion during March 2007, down 1 percent from last year.

## **WORTH READING**

### **Harvesting Cash: A Year Long Investigation by the Washington Post**

How to Spend an Extra \$15 Billion. In the past five years alone, the U.S. government has handed out more than \$95 billion in agricultural subsidies. Post reporters criss-crossed the country in 2006, identifying more than \$15 billion in wasteful, unnecessary and redundant spending.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/interactives/farmaid/>

### **Bees Vanish, and Scientists Race for Reasons**

More than a quarter of the country's 2.4 million bee colonies have been lost - tens of billions of bees, according to an estimate from the Apiary Inspectors of America, a national group that tracks beekeeping. So far, no one can say for certain what is causing the bees to become disoriented and fail to return to their hives.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/042407ED.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/042407ED.shtml)

### **Michael Pollan | You Are What You Grow**

Michael Pollan says that the reason that healthy food such as carrots can be more expensive than processed food, such as a Twinkie, is not due to the free market, but rather to a piece of legislation known as the farm bill.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/042507HA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/042507HA.shtml)

**Potent methane is an overlooked greenhouse gas.** Across the globe, chickens and pigs are doing their bit to curb global warming. But cows and sheep still have some catching up to do.

[http://www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/2007-04-30-methane\\_N.htm?csp=34](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/2007-04-30-methane_N.htm?csp=34)

### **California company a place old pesticides go to find new sales, not die**

By T. Christian Miller Los Angeles Times April 22, 2007

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2003676396\\_pesticide22.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2003676396_pesticide22.html)

### **RELIGIOUS GROUPS ADVOCATE FARM BILL REFORMS**

Church leaders urge Congress: Reform Farm Bill to Reflect American Values

[http://www.ncrlc.com/RWG\\_Release.html](http://www.ncrlc.com/RWG_Release.html)

### **Conservationists, Growers May Splinter on Farm Bill**

By Catharine Richert, CQ Staff April 27, 2007 CQ TODAY – AGRICULTURE

<http://public.cq.com/docs/cqt/news110-000002500028.html>

### **Now This Is Corn-fusing. Study says ethanol fuel could cause more health problems than gasoline**

Time to trot out Alanis, cuz this is what the kids call "ironic": a study from Stanford University says widespread use of ethanol in vehicles could have serious health effects. Atmospheric scientist Mark Jacobson ran computer models comparing air quality in 2020 based on use of both gasoline and E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline currently seeing a big old political and industrial push. He found that the ethanol blend would produce more ground-level ozone than gasoline, estimating that it could lead to a 4 percent increase in ozone-related deaths nationwide by 2020. The study, published in the online edition of the journal Environmental Science & Technology, also says hospitalizations for respiratory issues could increase and fuel-related cancer rates would likely remain the same. "We found that using E85 will cause at least as much health damage as gasoline," says Jacobson. "The question is, if we're not getting any health benefits, then why continue to promote ethanol?"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-ethanol18apr18.0.7852828.story> (Grist 4/24/07)

### **Cloves to Home. Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon chew the fat on their 100-mile diet**

By Kate Sheppard 24 Apr 2007

Two years ago, Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon set out to see if it was still possible, in these hyper-globalized times, to live off food grown in your own 'hood. The pair made a pact to dine on dishes culled from within a 100-mile radius of their Vancouver, B.C., home for an entire year. Their personal experiment quickly evolved into a movement, and now Smith, a freelance journalist who

writes regularly for Reader's Digest, and MacKinnon, a nonfiction author, have turned that movement into a book.  
<http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2007/04/24/100-mile/index.html?source=daily>

### **NFU: Study Shows Ag Market Concentration Increasing**

Agricultural market concentration is rising steadily, according to a study released by National Farmers Union. NFU released the findings of a NFU-commissioned study conducted by Drs. Mary Hendrickson and William Heffernan of the University of Missouri on the concentration of agricultural markets. The statistics revealed increased concentration in every industry except ethanol production. (Wisconsin AgNet ) <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?id=855&yr=2007>

### **From Concentrate: How food processing got into the hands of a few giant companies**

By Tom Philpott 26 Apr 2007

Two years ago, dairy giant Dean Foods shuttered a milk-processing facility in Wilkesboro, a town at the eastern edge of North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains

<http://www.grist.org/comments/food/2007/04/26/giants/index.html?source=daily>

### **Organic farming is a fraud**

By: Doyle Lentz

Earth Day is today, and you can bet there'll be claims that organic crops are somehow "better" for planet Earth than conventional or biotech crops. But it's the biggest misperception in agriculture.

<http://www.truthabouttrade.org/article.asp?id=7457>

### **THE VOCAL POINT: When did Forbes join the anti-industry attack pack?**

By Dan Murphy on 5/4/2007 for Meatingplace.com

Somebody mentions Forbes magazine, and for most of us, it conjures an image of a somewhat staid but highly credible business magazine most subscribers would characterize as conservative on social and policy issues. So why did its online Web site Forbes.com publish an article last week titled, "Meat can be murder on long-term health?"

<http://www.meatingplace.com/MembersOnly/webNews/details.aspx?item=17938>

### **Linking COOL With NAIS Means Trouble**

For Consumers and Small Farmers & Ranchers

By Randy Givens April 9, 2007 Liberty Ark Coalition

<http://www.libertyark.net/articles/givens-040907.html>

### **Trading Labor**

by: Dean Kleckner, Chairman, Truth About Trade & Technology

Should United Nations bureaucrats in Switzerland tell you how to run your farm? Of course not. But the International Labor Organization (ILO), a Geneva-based unit of the UN, exists for the purpose of encouraging particular employment policies around the world. Its regulators would be perfectly pleased to set some rules for you--and they just might, if free traders in Washington aren't careful. <http://www.truthabouttrade.org/article.asp?id=7472>

### **SMALL BITES**

Speculating on cell phones and bee-deaths, Bill Maher said: "It's nature's way of saying, 'Can you hear me now?'"

"When I hear terms like 'scientific proof' or 'good science' from the 'conventional types', it makes me want to remind them that Galileo was convicted for saying the earth was round when his opponents had 'scientific proof' that it was flat." – Klaas Martens

### **FARM BILL**

NY Farms! was made aware of these sites specifically in the last two weeks. This is not an inclusive or exclusive list. These links are posted for informational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the opinions/stance or unanimous consent of the Board of Directors of NY Farms! and its members. If there are other sites of interest that may interest our readers please forward them to our attention.

AFBF's 2007 Farm Bill proposal <http://www.fb.org/index.php?fuseaction=newsroom.farmbill2007>

NFU's farm bill principles <http://nfu.org/issues/agriculture-programs/farm-bill/>

Bread for the World farm bill outline <http://www.bread.org/take-action/letters-campaign/background.html>

American Farmland Trust farm bill priorities: <http://www.farmland.org/>

Purdue develops farm bill Web site <http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/farmbill/>

Oxfam America: Fairness in the Fields <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/campaigns/agriculture>

Food and Water Watch: The Farm Bill and Your Health <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/food/us-farmbill/farmbill-and-health>

Seeking Balance in U.S. Farm and Food Policy <http://www.farmandfoodproject.org/>

Food Fight: A Citizen's Guide to the Farm Bill [http://www.watershedmedia.org/foodfight\\_overview.html](http://www.watershedmedia.org/foodfight_overview.html)

National Family Farm Coalition Food from Family Farms Act: A Proporsal for the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill [www.nffc.net](http://www.nffc.net)

Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Farm Bill Action Center <http://www.msawg.org/>

American Dietetic Association recommendations for the 2007 Farm Bill  
[http://www.eatright.org/ada/files/ADA\\_Farm\\_Bill\\_Recommendations\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.eatright.org/ada/files/ADA_Farm_Bill_Recommendations_PDF.pdf)

A Northeast Farm Bill Agenda: 10 Priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill [www.northeastagworks.org](http://www.northeastagworks.org)

NE SAWG Navigating the Farm Bill Landscape [http://www.nesawg.org/2006/10/navigating\\_the\\_farm\\_bill\\_lands.html](http://www.nesawg.org/2006/10/navigating_the_farm_bill_lands.html)

Be a Farm Bill Hero from the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture:  
<http://www.sustainableagriculture.net/BeAFarmBillHero.php>

## **RESOURCES**

"**The NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Handbook: Beautiful Grass Naturally.**" It was put together by the Connecticut and Massachusetts chapters. There is information and an order form for it at [www.organiclandcare.net](http://www.organiclandcare.net)

Just Released: **A Guide to Serving Local Food on Your Menu.** The Guide is a primer to help foodservice managers and directors, caterers, chefs, restaurateurs and others consider creative ways to incorporate local food products into almost any foodservice setting. Topics include where to begin, identifying sources of supply, developing relationships with farmers, working through existing distributors, and things to consider about the regional food system. Chefs, institutional purchasing agents, and others share their experience in short case studies within the 32-page guide. [Click here](#) to view the Guide in PDF form. Printed copies will be provided with a charge for postage and handling. For more information, please contact [info@glynwood.org](mailto:info@glynwood.org) or 845-265-3338.

### **MISA Releases Marketing Local Food Handbook**

Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture has released Marketing Local Food ([http://www.misa.umn.edu/vd/publications/marketing\\_local\\_food.pdf](http://www.misa.umn.edu/vd/publications/marketing_local_food.pdf)) (PDF/1.8 MB). This handbook is designed to help Minnesota farmers explore the various options for marketing local food. It introduces the basics of different marketing systems, suggests resources and includes profiles of farmers who are selling farm products directly to consumers via farmers' markets, roadside stands, CSAs, on-farm stores; as well as information and profiles about selling indirectly via retail food establishments or food services. [http://www.misa.umn.edu/Marketing\\_Local\\_Food2](http://www.misa.umn.edu/Marketing_Local_Food2)

**Nutrition Standards for Foods in Schools: Leading the Way Toward Healthier Youth** A multidisciplinary committee of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has convened to review and make recommendations regarding appropriate nutrition standards for the availability, sale, content, and consumption of foods and beverages at school, with attention given to foods and beverages offered in competition with federally-reimbursable meals and snacks.

<http://www.iom.edu/Object.File/Master/42/568/Food%20in%20Schools%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

**Graduate Assistantships Available at Iowa State University.** The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/>) at Iowa State University is proud to be a sponsor of several graduate assistantships for students interested in pursuing a master's degree in sustainable agriculture with a minor in business, or a master's degree in business administration (MBA) with a minor in sustainable agriculture. Candidates chosen will work as part of a Leopold Center team involved in either the Value Chain Partnerships for a Sustainable Agriculture project or the Marketing and Food Systems Initiative. The deadline for application is June 1, 2007. For detailed information, please contact: Charles Sauer, Grad Program in Sustainable Agriculture: [csauer@iastate.edu](mailto:csauer@iastate.edu) or (515) 294-6518; Amy Hutter, MBA grad program: [ahutter@iastate.edu](mailto:ahutter@iastate.edu) or (515) 294-8118; Rich Pirog, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture: [rspirog@iastate.edu](mailto:rspirog@iastate.edu) or (515) 294-1854.

**Farm Aid wants you to become a family farmer!** We need more farmers - we lose almost 330 family farmers a week! A trend we would like to see reverse. The more farmers we have on the land, the easier it will be for all to recognize their hard work and enjoy the fruits of their labor. And, the more we learn about how to grow our own food, the more we will understand how very important farmers are. Want to join the good food team? Read more about how you can become a farmer here:

<http://www.farmaid.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=7835&JServSessionIdr008=u2spkmlf51.app6b>

NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION (NOFA) 33rd ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE – AUGUST 10-12, 2007  
"A CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING" Still seeking Exhibitors. A great way to gain exposure for your business to over 1,400 people. Contact Katie Campbell-Nelson at (413) 337-4327 or [katiecampbellnelson@gmail.com](mailto:katiecampbellnelson@gmail.com). Fun-makers: lend your ideas or talents to the fun Saturday afternoon Fair: still seeking jugglers, musicians, gymnasts, dog-tricksters, game-makers, etc. The

Music Stage is open to those with a desire to play – if you want a venue, you've got it. For the above, contact Tricia Cooper at: (617) 558-3322 or [triciacoop@hotmail.com](mailto:triciacoop@hotmail.com).

My name is Zena. Myself, members and City Harvest are working together to establish a food cooperative - the South Bronx Food Coop ([www.sbxfc.org](http://www.sbxfc.org)). We look forward to opening the coop in the spring of next year. We will operate as a full function supermarket, 7 days a week. In the meantime, We would like to build our supply chain. I am inviting all interested farmers to become possible suppliers to the cooperative. Since I am new at this, I don't know contractual/legal needs of working with local farmers. In addition, I need to know what each farmer has, location, delivery timetable and costs. We are also looking for healthy product vendors. We are desperately trying to keep our cost internal to the NYS region. We are willing to work with your needs. Feel free to contact me via email. Spread the word. Thanks! Zena Nelson, Founder & Executive Director 646.226.0758

The start of bloom time 2007 marks the beginning of an adventure for Stone Ridge Orchard: This year, the farm is going for the Big O, as in certified USDA organic. Rather than just making the transition, the farm invites the general public to join them in this journey. With available streaming video, an active blog and regional outreach, Stone Ridge Orchard is inviting consumers to witness the real journey and process of transitioning to organic farming. The farm is certifying fifteen of its acres organic with the United States Department of Agriculture. This comes as the farm's first charge into the realm of Beyond Organic, or, the path of permanent sustainable local agriculture that extends well beyond farming methodologies. Three years ago, farmer Michael Biltonen got the notion that he was going to start transitioning some of his crops from progressive Integrated Pest Management (often known as 'uncertified organic') into certified USDA organic. The public, it seems, demands organic food. Be it produce, meat or dairy, the American consumer is mad for the little green and white label. But do they understand what they are clamoring for? Stone Ridge Orchard is peeling away the layers of jargon, hype, and granting transparency in an otherwise private market. By joining Michael Biltonen, consumers will learn how being organic isn't just about not spraying pesticide on crops. It's not about a label, and marketing hype. It's about many larger issues, some logistical, some ethical and some economic. Stone Ridge Orchard's goal is to create a dialogue with concerned consumers about knowing the true origins of their food, and what it really takes to grow delicious and sustainable produce. To start this discussion, and discover the answers behind many of these issues, please contact Stone Ridge Orchard. Stay tuned for forthcoming video podcasts, and visit our blog: [www.organicshmorganic.blogspot.com](http://www.organicshmorganic.blogspot.com) To schedule an interview, please contact Amy Johansson [amy@stoneridgeorchard.com](mailto:amy@stoneridgeorchard.com) or 845 249 3440

## **CALL TO ACTION**

Articles are posted for informational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the opinions/stance or unanimous consent of the Board of Directors of NY Farms! and its members.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

For more information please click on the [webpage](#)

## **GRANTS**

### **Value-Added Producer Grant**

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=7374>

The primary objective of this grant program is to help eligible independent producers of agricultural commodities, agricultural producer groups, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures develop strategies to create marketing opportunities and to help develop business plans for viable marketing opportunities. These grants will facilitate greater participation in emerging markets and new markets for value-added products. Grants will only be awarded if projects or ventures are determined to be economically viable and sustainable.

Proposals are due May 16, 2007

### **Rural Cooperative Development Grants**

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/rcdg/rcdg.htm>

Rural Cooperative Development grants are made for establishing and operating centers for cooperative development for the primary purpose of improving the economic condition of rural areas through the development of new cooperatives and improving operations of existing cooperatives. USDA Rural Development announces the availability of approximately \$3.5 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year 2007. The maximum award per grant is \$200,000 and matching funds are required. Grants may be made to nonprofit corporations and institutions of higher education.

Proposals are due June 8, 2007.

### **Farm Viability Institute to fund agricultural innovation in 2007 grant cycle**

The New York Farm Viability Institute, a nonprofit organization that directs research projects that result in farm-level increases in profit, is gearing up to fund innovative and collaborative efforts this year. State officials recently announced \$5 million to continue the Institute's core project work in 2007. That money will go towards the Institute's grant programs. Requests for proposals will be posted online, [www.nyfarmviability.org](http://www.nyfarmviability.org), approximately four-six weeks before applications are due.

**Agriculture Innovation Center:** multi-sector, cross-commodity efforts that address business planning and structure, marketing and product development, among others. Submissions due: July 1 Funding Decision: Sept. 19

**Education Innovation** (formerly, Extension Innovation): projects include outreach education and delivery of technical assistance to producers, especially production technology and business strategy Submissions Due: Aug. 15 Funding Decision: Nov. 21

**Applied Research Partnerships:** Projects test and demonstrate production technology that translates into near-term benefits for the state's agriculture producers. Submissions Due: Oct. 1 Funding decisions: Dec. 19

Additionally, the state committed \$750,000 to assist the New York Center for Dairy Excellence, a new effort to encourage collaboration in addressing issues facing the dairy industry. The Center for Dairy Excellence will be coordinated by the Farm Viability Institute.

**JOHANNIS ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$52 MILLION IN LOANS AND GRANTS FOR FARM LABOR HOUSING, HOUSING PRESERVATION.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johannis today announced the availability of \$52.5 million in loans and grants to construct off-farm housing and help low- and very-low-income homeowners make needed repairs. USDA plans to make available \$31.9 million for Section 514 farm labor housing loans and approximately \$10.5 million for Section 516 farm labor housing grants. Requests for aid may not exceed \$3 million combined for loans and grants. Grants may not exceed 90 percent of total development costs. Applicants for farm labor housing aid may include requests for Section 521 Rental Assistance and operating assistance. In addition to the farm labor housing assistance, the Department plans to distribute \$10.1 million to help finance rural housing repairs through the Section 533 Housing Preservation Grant program. Non-profit organizations and public agencies may apply for grants to help homeowners make repairs. The funds also may be used to help owners of multi-family and cooperative housing complexes make repairs if they agree to make the units available to low- and very-low-income households. Applications for farm labor housing assistance as well for housing preservation grant aid are due June 18. Applications may be obtained by contacting the applicant's USDA Rural Development State Office. USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, more than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

**SAVE THE DATE** For an updated calendar of events, visit the NY Farms! website at <http://www.nyfarms.info/calendar.html>

**CLASSIFIEDS**