Commissioner Ball Celebrates New York Maple

Commissioner Ball toured maple farms across the state in March to celebrate maple season and New York's maple industry! Throughout the month of March, maple farms opened their doors to the public to offer tours and pancake breakfasts, sell maple products, and demonstrate the syrup-making process, which includes the traditional system of hanging buckets on trees or more modern methods of production using vacuum systems to increase the yield of sap per tree. Maple Weekends took place at more than 140 maple farms and museums, boosting agri-tourism across New York State.

Commissioner Ball first joined the Upper Hudson Maple Producers Association for a ceremonial maple tapping at Brower Road Sugarhouse in Gloversville to promote the New York maple industry and encourage New Yorkers to support local maple producers. Brower Road is NYS Grown & Certified, which verifies New York's agricultural producers and growers who adhere to food safety and environmental sustainability standards.

He next visited Crosstown Maple in Ravena, New York with Senator Michelle Hinchey, Chair of the Senate's Committee on Agriculture, and finally headed to join the VVS FFA at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School for their annual Maple Weekend pancake breakfast, sap house tour, and maple tapping! The VVS FFA operates its own maple processing facility at the high school.

A big shout-out to all of our hosts for their hospitality and - of course - the delicious maple treats!
Update: HPAI in New York State

On March 25, the Department issued an order to ban all live fowl shows and exhibitions in New York State to help prevent the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to the state’s poultry population. Commissioner Ball issued the order because of the continuing spread of strains of HPAI in the United States, including detections in New York State. The current outbreak has impacted 17 states so far and is rapidly expanding nationwide.

The ban will remain in effect until further notice. The Department is continuing close monitoring of HPAI in New York State and plans to reassess the Notice of Order in late May to determine whether it should remain in place through the summer fair season. Learn more.

To date, six flocks in New York State have tested positive for HPAI. The detections of HPAI in New York prompt reminders for commercial and hobby poultry farmers to increase their biosecurity measures to help prevent the spread of the disease. Poultry owners should keep their birds away from wild ducks and geese and their droppings. Outdoor access for poultry should be limited at this time. Learn more about biosecurity on farms.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention these recent HPAI detections in birds do not present an immediate public health concern. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States.

Sign up for a Hemp Sampling Agent Training

The Department is conducting free virtual training sessions for individuals interested in becoming a Certified Hemp Sampling Agent. Sampling Agents are certified by the Department to work as independent contractors sampling hemp crops on farms throughout New York State.

Sessions have already been conducted.
On March 21 and April 1. Another session is coming up on April 13, 2022, at 2:00 pm. Training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams. After each training session, an open book multiple choice exam will follow. Successful candidates will be certified by the Department to collect regulatory hemp samples from licensed hemp growers and send the samples to an appropriate THC testing facility for compliance testing.

Learn more and sign up to get trained

Commissioner Ball Joins Secretary Vilsack in New York City

In March, Commissioner Ball joined U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack at Teachers College, Columbia University where Secretary Vilsack delivered an address about USDA's actions on nutrition security. The Department share's USDA's mission to prioritize bold nutrition security efforts that will help ensure all American children and families have consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable food. Learn more at USDA.gov.

Dairy Promotion Order Releases Annual Report

Commissioner Ball announced the release of the New York State Dairy Promotion Order (DPO) annual report for 2020. In the 2020 contract year, the DPO supported the promotion and advertisement of the New York dairy industry, as well as research and educational activities highlighting the industry, through contracts with seven organizations. The funded initiatives are highlighted in the report.

In conjunction with the release of its annual report, the DPO is also launching a new YouTube channel. The page will serve as a central location that will make it easier to find DPO
meeting recordings, video proposals, and presentations submitted by contracted organizations, as well as educational videos about the DPO and New York’s dairy industry.

The DPO Advisory Board advises the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets’ Commissioner on the disposition of approximately $15 million a year in funds collected from milk producers under the producer-approved New York Dairy Promotion Order. The DPO Advisory Board also makes recommendations on promotion and nutrition education programs, and various dairy product and research projects. Learn more.

---

### Apple Marketing Order Advisory Board Seeking Proposals

The [New York State Apple Marketing Order](#) (AMO) Advisory Board is seeking proposals to enhance the competitive position of New York’s apple industry, identify new or emerging market opportunities, or develop innovative promotional initiatives to increase the sale and consumption of New York apples. Any proposal(s) selected through this request would be funded by the AMO, which collects funds annually from apple growers.

The Board is seeking interest from organizations capable of performing market research or those with experience implementing marketing strategies to increase produce sales. If interested in applying, an organization must submit a detailed proposal to the Department, which administers the AMO. The full solicitation, including eligibility, submission instructions, and proposal requirements can be found at: [http://www.nyscr.ny.gov/adsOpen.cfm?ID=E613213A-9D4A-4345-AB1C-5F33D5E6CBDF](http://www.nyscr.ny.gov/adsOpen.cfm?ID=E613213A-9D4A-4345-AB1C-5F33D5E6CBDF).

For more information on the proposal requirements, or to submit a proposal, email [William.Shattuck@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:William.Shattuck@agriculture.ny.gov) or call (518) 485-7306. Applications must be submitted by April 11, 2022, to be considered for this funding.

---

### Support Agricultural Learning in New York State

[Support Agricultural Learning in New York State](#)
Did you know that you can support agricultural learning in New York State by purchasing a custom New York Agriculture in the Classroom license plate? A portion of the fees from this plate supports the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Fund. Agricultural education highlights the diverse career options available within our industry, from animal and vet science to food science, conservation, biotechnology, agribusiness, and so much more. We’re excited that this plate helps to support continued learning, inspiring students to choose ag and ensuring the future of agriculture in New York State. Learn more.

New Permits for Craft Beverage Manufacturers

New York State is fast-tracking permits for craft beverage manufacturers! New permits allow for manufacturing and selling alcoholic beverages while a liquor license is pending. New York’s craft beverage industry benefits our farmers who supply fresh ingredients and high-quality agricultural crops for unique - and delicious - beers, ciders, wines, and much more. Learn more about this new program.

Register for the Taste NY Business-to-Business Event

Taste NY at the Adirondacks Welcome Center is hosting 2022’s first in-person Business-to-Business event! The event will take place at SUNY Adirondack on April 28 from 12-4 pm in the Northwest Bay Conference Center at 640 Bay Road in Queensbury. Restaurant, hotel, bar, institution, café, and retail buyers are encouraged to attend to meet with local agricultural food, beverage, and gift producers to sample new wholesale products. Admission is free. Booth space for producers is just $25 and includes a breakfast networking event and two morning workshops to help producers expand their reach in the marketplace. For more information and to register, contact the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce at (518) 487-0045 or visit www.lakegeorgechamber.com/tasteny.
Have an NYS Grown & Certified Spring!

Spring means it's time for flowers, and there's no better way to enjoy the coming warm season than with an NYS Grown & Certified bouquet! Sunwarm Gardens in Vermontville, New York is now accepting orders for their 2022 subscription season. Bring beauty into your home or business with handcrafted bouquets delivered to your door weekly, June through September. Choose from full season or a-la-carte subscriptions. Or send a gift subscription to a special person! And since Sunwarm Gardens is #NYSCertified, you know that their beautiful blooms were grown with sustainable practices. Learn more at sunwarmgardens.com, or find another fresh-cut flower producer at certified.ny.gov.

Current Funding Opportunities

Check out our current funding opportunities:
Apple Marketing Order Proposals
  • Proposals are due on April 11, 2022.
RFP 0254 - Land Trusts Grants Program Round 4: Appraisals for Proposed Conservation Easement Projects
  • Proposals are due June 24, 2022.
RFP 0257 – Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program Round 28
  • Proposals are due by 4:30 p.m. local time, May 2, 2022.
RFP 0243 – Climate Resilient Farming Round 6
  • Proposals are due by 4:30 p.m. local time on March 28, 2022.
RFA 0238 - Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 18 - Conservation Easement Projects
  • Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
RFA 0181 - Source Water Buffer Program
  • Applications are taken on a rolling basis.

For more information on these or other funding opportunities, please visit our Funding Opportunities page.

Spotlight: New York’s Source Water Buffer Program

The Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District has been awarded over $200,000 to purchase a 16.6-acre conservation easement to permanently protect agricultural land along a tributary of Lake Champlain. This project will also implement a riparian buffer system that will restrict livestock access to the stream, improve stream crossings to allow for aquatic passage, and reduce erosion of the streambank. Approximately 16.22 acres of forested buffer will be established and permanently protected.

New York State’s Source Water Buffer Program supports the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands that support, expand, or enhance water quality protection of active public drinking water sources. This program also supports the implementation of riparian buffer systems within the conservation easement area that will provide further protection to water quality and address water quality issues such as harmful algal blooms. Learn more.