



## Agriculture and Markets

The industry specific guidance below was developed by the Department in response to the pandemic and is no longer mandatory. These archived documents are made available as a public reference and resource only.

Industry partners should refer to [New York Forward Guidance](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19. For more information, please visit <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>.



## Interim Guidance for Farm Equipment Auctions

May 29, 2020

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On March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued [Executive Order 202](#), declaring a state of emergency in response to COVID-19. On March 20, 2020, Governor Cuomo announced the [NY on "PAUSE" Executive Order](#), a 10-point policy to assure uniform safety, directing that all non-essential businesses statewide close in-office personnel functions on Sunday, March 22, 2020. Essential businesses, while not required to close, were required to comply with the guidance and directives for maintaining a clean and safe work environment and to maintain social distancing measures, to the greatest extent possible.

As part of the States measured re-opening, farm equipment auctions are permitted with restrictions. Due to their ability to operate outside in open outdoor spaces, and the critical connection to essential food-producing agriculture farms, auctions will be allowed subject to the following operating requirements.

### Required Operating Procedures

- Auction houses seeking to auction farm equipment must:
  - Comply with all NY Forward, Phase One: Agriculture Guidance, including "Non-food Related Agriculture Summary Guidelines", available at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NonFoodAgriShortGuidelines.pdf>.
  - Read and affirm the detailed guidelines for non-food agriculture, available at <https://forward.ny.gov/industries-reopening-phase#phase-one--agriculture--forestry--fishing---hunting>.
  - Develop and implement a business safety plan, available at [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS\\_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/NYS_BusinessReopeningSafetyPlanTemplate.pdf).
- All auctions must be conducted outdoors and must adhere to strict social distancing of at least six feet between individuals. Maximum group size in any one area is limited to 10 people.
- Farm equipment must not be touched by attendees during preview.
- Bidding paddles may not be shared amongst attendees and must be cleaned or disposed of after use.
- The exchange of currency must be done in a safe manner, and if possible, through electronic means.
- Hand sanitizer, consisting of at least 60% alcohol, should be made available to attendees and employees.
- Before tender of the farm equipment to the bidder, all surfaces of the tractor, including the interior of the cab, handrails, the hitch or linkage points, must be clean and sanitized. Particular attention should be paid to high touch surfaces, including door handles, the gear shift lever, and the steering wheel.
- Transportation of equipment by auction employees, where applicable, should consist of only those passengers necessary to assure safe loading and unloading of the equipment. Facemasks must be worn in the vehicle if social distancing cannot be maintained.

### **Registration of Participants**

Auction houses must determine the maximum number of participants that may safely attend the auction, while adhering to strict social distancing.

Auction attendees must come from the region in which the auction will take place or a directly adjoining county.

Individuals wishing to attend the event must be pre-registered to ensure the maximum number of participants is not exceeded. Registration must include, at minimum, the first and last name of the individual, phone number and/or email address.

If the maximum number of participants is not reached during pre-registration, the auction organizers may open the event on a first-come, first-serve basis, stopping attendees once the maximum number is reached. Event organizers must record, at minimum, the first and last name of the individual, phone number and/or email address. On-site registration must be done in a safe manner while maintaining social distancing. It is recommended that auction employees record the attendee's information, without the shared use of a clipboard, pen, or tablet.

### **Face Coverings**

Employers must provide essential workers with masks, free of charge, to wear when interacting with the public in accordance with [Executive Order 202.16](#), and any extensions thereof. Additional information can be found within the [Interim Guidance on Executive Order 202.16](#).

Anyone who is over the age of two and able to medically tolerate a face-covering must cover their nose and mouth with a mask or cloth face-covering when in a public in accordance with [Executive Order 202.17 and 202.18](#), and any extensions thereof. Additional information can be found within the [Interim Guidance on Executive Orders 202.17 and 202.18](#).

### **Promoting Good Hygiene**

"Stop the Spread" [signage](#) (alternative languages for the [signage](#) are also available) should be posted throughout the auction area, reminding attendees of safe hygiene practices.

**For additional information, visit the links below:**

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus>

NYS Department of Health: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>