September is Hunger Action Month, which is observed each year to raise awareness about food insecurity and encourage New Yorkers to join the fight against hunger. New York State has long been committed to combatting hunger and has launched several groundbreaking programs and initiatives in recent years, including Nourish New York, the Council on Hunger and Food Policy, and the No Student Goes Hungry initiative, to improve access to healthy, locally grown foods and bring New York-grown foods and beverages to underserved communities.

Stay tuned for more information on the Department’s plans to help recognize Hunger Action Month and encourage New Yorkers to participate in the month’s activities. Learn more about Hunger Action Month at feedingamerica.org/take-action/hunger-action-month.org/take-action/hunger-action-month and find your local food bank partners at feedingnys.org/our-member-food-banks.

Wrapping Up the 2022 Great New York State Fair

The 2022 Great New York State Fair wrapped up yesterday in a big way, with 878,110 Fairgoers attending over the course of the Fair, and a final fireworks display! The first full fair since 2020, this year’s Fair kicked off with Governor Kathy Hochul cutting the ribbon on Opening Day and announcing the beginning of the fourth phase of improvements at the New York State Fairgrounds. This $34.7 million project will improve agricultural facilities at the Fairgrounds in Syracuse and includes a 1.5-acre greenhouse, which will be located near the Exposition Center; a new show space for goats; a new sheep barn and wool center; a new horse barn; a new concession stand; streetscape improvements to Restaurant Row; and various infrastructure improvements. In addition to announcing the new improvement projects, the Governor highlighted progress made on her September 2021 plan to facilitate greater
The Fair delivered with the very best in entertainment, music, rides, and food throughout its 13-day run! In addition, several special days—from Dairy Day to Beef Day to Ag Career Day—highlighted the very best in New York State agriculture. We enjoyed all the traditions—a $0.25 cup of perfectly chilled milk at the Milk Bar, the unveiling of the Butter Sculpture, a cone of maple ice cream, the Dairy Birthing Center, educational opportunities with our FFA and 4-H students and so much more—and are already looking forward to the new projects that await us in 2023 and beyond!

Department Holds Farm Bill Listening Tour

Over the last few months, the Department launched a Farm Bill Listening Tour to provide an opportunity to engage with and hear from constituents about the importance of the 2023 Farm Bill to New York State.

Feedback gathered during the tour will be provided to Governor Hochul to help develop New York State’s Farm Bill priorities for critical funding and policy changes in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, and the environment.

So far, listening sessions on the tour have taken place at:

- Long Island: Suffolk County Community College, July 18 -watch a recording
- Southern Tier: Cornell Cooperative Extension, July 25 -watch a recording
- Hudson Valley: SUNY New Paltz, August 1 -watch a recording
- Western New York: SUNY Buffalo, August 2
- Central New York: New York State Fairgrounds, August 3 -watch a recording
- North Country: Miner Institute, August 19 -watch a recording
In addition to receiving public comment in person at the listening sessions, the Department is encouraging written comment to be submitted by emailing FarmBill@agriculture.ny.gov. The deadline to submit written comment is December 19, 2022.

Kicking off the listening session tour on July 18, Governor Kathy Hochul visited Bruno Farm in Suffolk County and held a roundtable session to hear from farmers and industry stakeholders about their successes and concerns. Governor Hochul also visited the North Country to hold a roundtable session, and Lieutenant Governor Delgado visited the Hudson Valley and Finger Lakes regions. Learn more about the tour and the importance of the Farm Bill to New York State.

NASDA Annual Meeting to Take Place in Saratoga Springs

Commissioner Ball is honored to be serving as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) this year. As President, the Commissioner is hosting the 2022 NASDA Annual Meeting, September 26 through September 29, in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York. This year's theme is "Still Growing," putting a spotlight on resiliency in agriculture. We invite all to attend for a great agenda filled with tours, plenary sessions, educational meetings, and more. See the agenda and register today.

NASDA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association that represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. NASDA grows and enhances American agriculture through policy, partnerships, and public engagement.

Grapevine Certification is Back

The Department is proud to have relaunched its Grapevine Certification program, in coordination with Cornell University. The program helps to protect and support New York’s wine and grape industry by providing the most stringent testing protocols in North America for viruses of grapevine plants, greatly reducing introduction of virus-infected vines to new vineyards.
and increasing the odds that plants being sold will yield a healthy crop. Three New York nurseries are participating in the program and offering New York-certified vines to vineyards across the State, eastern United States, and eastern Canada.

Staff at the Department has been working with three nurseries—Amberg Grapevines in Clifton Springs; Double A Vineyards in Fredonia; and Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard in Dundee—to collect leaf samples of the vines, which are then sent to the virology lab at Cornell AgriTech in Geneva for testing. Using cutting-edge technology, the staff at Cornell is able to provide better, more accurate results in just a fraction of the time it used to take (weeks vs. years) to determine whether plant materials are carrying a virus.


Funding Available for Meat Processors

Critical funding is available to New York’s meat processors through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA is offering $1 billion in grant and loan funding to support the expansion of existing facilities or establish new ones, with the goal of increasing capacity and addressing the nationwide shortage of affordable meat available to consumers. In addition, the Department is also launching a $5 million meat processing expansion grant program later this year. The grant program was sponsored by New York Senate Agriculture Chair Michelle Hinchey and Assembly Agriculture Chair Donna Lupardo and will build on programs Empire State Development makes available to support agribusinesses. Learn more.

New York Awarded More Than $100,000 to Grow its Farm-to-School Program

The Department has been awarded a $110,000 USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) grant to grow its Farm-to-School program. The grant will support producer readiness trainings that will help New York’s farmers access the farm-to-school market, and provide
The tools, resources, and connections needed to sell their farm products to schools across the State.

The project will deliver the USDA Farm-to-School Producer Training, Bringing the Farm to School, piloted for 50 farmers across the state. The comprehensive training curriculum offers producers a well-planned program delivered with a multi-pronged approach of experiential, peer-led, and action-oriented learning. The program aims to serve New York's diverse and underserved agricultural communities while strengthening regional partnerships and establishing connections with New York producers. Trainings provide interested farmers and producers with the tools to access school markets and to help them develop plans to bring their goals to life. Training will also provide a pathway for New York farmers and producers to understand how collaborative efforts between school districts and producers generate new partnerships, revenue streams and local, sustainable food systems.

The project will be administered the Department with trainings delivered by American Farmland Trust and Cornell University. Learn more.

Department Holds Spotted Lanternfly Media Availability

On August 8, the Department's Director for Plant Industry, Chris Logue, discussed the State's efforts to combat the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive pest that can be devastating to New York agriculture. Check out the recorded session on YouTube.

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is a destructive pest that feeds on more than 70 plant species, including plants and crops that are critical to New York's agricultural economy, such as grapevine, apple trees, and hops. The Department is asking for the public's help in combating SLF. First found in New York State on Staten Island in August 2020, the population has been observed in all NYC boroughs, Long Island, Port Jervis, Sloatsburg, Orangeburg, Ithaca, and Binghamton. The Department is working closely with its partners on the state and federal level on measures to combat the population, control its spread to other areas of New York State, and protect New York's agricultural crops.

Report SLF: agriculture.ny.gov/reportSLF

Learn more: agriculture.ny.gov/spottedlanternfly
$500,000 Awarded by NYCAMH’s John May Farm Safety Fund, Funding Still Available to Farmers

As of July 2022, more than 150 small and mid-sized farms in New York State have received funding to improve worker safety through the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) John May Farm Safety Fund. Past projects include improvements towards animal handling, ergonomic workspaces, and electrical wiring.

Since 2015, the John May Farm Safety Fund has provided this unique cost-sharing program in 44 of New York’s 62 counties. Farmers may apply for up to $5,000 in matching funds through our free and confidential process. Funds are made possible through the Department and private donations.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To learn more or to apply to the John May Farm Safety Fund, visit nycamh.org/johnmayfund.

Join the Taste NY Producer Showcase!

Taste NY is calling on all its food and beverage vendors as well as representatives from hotels, restaurants, bars, retail locations, and institutions to participate in the upcoming Taste NY Producer Showcase. The showcase, which will be held on Thursday, September 22 at SUNY Adirondack, is an opportunity for 50 New York State producers to connect with potential wholesale buyers and attendees from the Adirondack Region. Admission is free for attendees. 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.

This business-to-business expo event is intended to help farmers and agricultural producers in the Adirondack region and New York State grow their business and encourage the purchase of local products. Details are below:

- **Location:** SUNY Adirondack, Adirondack Hall, Northwest Bay Conference Center, 640 Bay Road Queensbury, New York 12804
- **Deadline to apply:** Fill out the VENDOR APPLICATION by September 5
- **Note:** If you were previously registered for the April event, it is not necessary to submit the application again. Please confirm your participation by emailing Jennifer@lakegeorgechamber.com.

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**NYS Grown & Certified updates**

**NYS Grown & Certified Promotion Encourages New Yorkers to 'Shop the Seal'!**

The NYS Grown & Certified program is launching a digital advertising campaign to help showcase our Grown & Certified growers and producers! The campaign’s mission is to encourage consumers to “Shop the Seal,” and for retailers to highlight which products are NYS Grown & Certified. The digital campaign will include advertising on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and the NYS Grown & Certified website. It will also feature three videos that feature NYS Grown & Certified farms—Shaul Farms, Agbotic, and Tongore Farms, who share why the seal is important to them and their customers. Watch for those to launch soon!

Are you interested in using the seal to promote the New York Grown & Certified products in your store or restaurant? Contact us at NYSCertified@agriculture.ny.gov or call (518) 457-7076, option #3 to obtain a licensing agreement.

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**Current Funding Opportunities**
Spotlight: Greenfield Farms Selected for the New York AEM-Leopold Conservation Award

In August, Commissioner Ball was joined by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos and the Sand County Foundation to announce that Greenfield Farms of Skaneateles has been selected for the 2022 New York AEM-Leopold Conservation Award. The distinguished award honors a farm for its extraordinary efforts to promote and protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.

Greenfield Farms is located near Skaneateles Lake, which supplies drinking water for Syracuse and seven other New York municipalities. Jim, Tom, Bill, and TJ Greenfield utilize agricultural conservation practices to help their farm act as a 1,400-acre sponge, absorbing rain and snow melt and keeping topsoil in place. Jim Greenfield is one of the original leaders and farmer advocates of Syracuse’s Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program.
Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) recognizes farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. The award is presented to landowners in 24 states. Since 2020, New York’s longstanding Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award has been offered in collaboration with the nationally recognized Leopold Conservation Award® program.

Commissioner Ball and Commissioner Seggos also contributed an Op-ed to the Auburn Citizen, highlighting Greenfield Farms' award as well as shining a light on all the other ways that New York's farmers are fighting back and leading in the fight against climate change. Check out the article.