Happy Thanksgiving!

For me, November marks the gradual transition from the last days of the harvest season into winter. New Yorkers are certainly no strangers to the cold — we are a hearty bunch — and we recognize the earlier sunsets and gusty days as signs of the holiday season, when we turn to delicious, festive meals with friends and family to keep us warm and nourished.

As we turn the page on another bountiful harvest season and plan our Thanksgiving celebrations, I urge us all to take a moment to feel grateful for our hardworking agricultural community. I am proud to work alongside the one percent of the population that feeds the remaining 99 percent with delicious, high-quality foods and beverages.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you and your families to help support farmers and producers across New York State by sourcing locally for your meal. Between community farmers' markets, local farms, Taste NY Markets, and more, you can find everything you need for a complete Thanksgiving dinner brought to you from the hardworking farmers here in New York.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!

Commissioner Richard Ball

Over $13 Million Awarded to Protect Clean Water

Last month, Governor Kathy Hochul
announced over $13 million was awarded through the State's Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control program to protect clean water across New York State and help New York's farmers continue their work to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The funding supports agricultural water quality conservation projects, which will benefit 50 farms, enhance water quality in priority watersheds, and protect the environment.

Funding has been awarded to 24 county Soil and Water Conservation Districts, on behalf of the farms, which will support on-farm environmental planning and the implementation of best management practice (BMP) systems to keep nutrients and other potential pollutants from entering waterways. BMPs include a variety of measures, including installing vegetative buffers along streams, planting cover crops, enhancing nutrient management through manure storage, and other conservation measures. [Checkout a complete list of projects awarded.](#)

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**Census of Agriculture Coming This Month**

The Census of Agriculture is taking place this month! Every five years, the USDA takes a Census of Agriculture to update its complete count of America's farms and the hardworking people who run them.

The census provides valuable information used at the local, state, and national levels to plan for the future and help ensure our country's agricultural community receives the resources it needs. Participating helps inform decisions about policy, conservation programs, infrastructure, education, and more. It is also the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agricultural data for every county and state in the country. Make every voice count in the future of agriculture by participating in the census!

For more information on the Census of Agriculture, visit: [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus).

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**Registration Now Open: 191st Annual Agricultural Society Meeting and Agricultural Forum**
Registration for the 191st New York State Agricultural Society Annual Meeting and Forum opens today, November 1. The Forum will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at the Syracuse OnCenter and offers an opportunity for farmers and other key stakeholders to discuss some of the biggest issues facing the food system and natural resource industries.

At the Forum, Commissioner Ball will deliver the 2023 State of Agriculture Address and provide an update on New York State’s ongoing efforts to support New York farmers and agricultural businesses. For more information, a look at the agenda, and to register, please visit nysagociety.org.

New York State Awarded Nearly $26 Million Through USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program

The Department has been awarded $25.8 million from the USDA through the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement (LFPA) program to purchase locally grown and produced food to support New York farmers, including those who have been traditionally underserved, and to distribute those goods to food insecure communities. Stay tuned for application details in the coming days.

In addition to the LFPA, the USDA awarded nearly $8 million to the New York State Education Department to provide schools with additional resources to purchase local foods and beverages to serve children during the school day through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program.

Farm Bill Public Comments Due by December 19

Reminder: The Department is encouraging members of New York’s agricultural community to submit written comments regarding the 2023
Federal Farm Bill. Comments may be submitted at: farmbill@agriculture.ny.gov. The deadline to submit written comment is December 19, 2022.

The Farm Bill is an omnibus, multi-year law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. The most recent Farm Bill, the Agricultural Act of 2018, expires at the beginning of 2023. With many important programs being funded by the Farm Bill, written comments from New York’s agricultural community will help shape the agricultural policies and programs that New York State will support in the 2023 Farm Bill, as will the public comments received at a series of listening sessions conducted over the summer.

Applications for USDA's Dairy Margin Coverage Program Now Open

Dairy producers can now enroll for 2023 coverage through USDA’s Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program. This important safety net mitigates some of the risks involved in dairy farming and helps producers manage changes in milk and feed prices.

Last year, USDA’s Farm Service Agency took steps to improve coverage for smaller dairies by offering a new Supplemental DMC program and updating its feed cost formula to better address retroactive, current, and future feed costs.

The Supplemental DMC Program allows dairy producers to protect their operations by enrolling supplemental production. The signup period ends December 9, 2022. Find out more about the program and enrollment: fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/dairy-margin-coverage-program/index

Department Hosts TLAER Training

Last month, the Department collaborated with the New York State Police to hold a Technical Large Animal Emergency Response (TLAER) Awareness training at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The training, which was led by the Department’s Divisions of Animal Industry and
Emergency Management, was offered to New York State County Animal Response Teams (CARTS) and first responders, including firefighters, emergency medical service providers, law enforcement, and public safety officials. TLAER trainings provide awareness-level training knowledge to participants in large animal emergency response, behavior and restraint, decontamination awareness, transportation, and rescue considerations. The training was a great success, and we thank everyone who participated.

**Department Initiates Study of Urban Agriculture**

In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Department is conducting a study of urban agriculture to better understand this important part of New York’s agricultural industry and to advance opportunities for urban farmers.

The Department is asking for interested parties to submit reports, recommendations, surveys, studies, or other documents about urban farming to yg88@cornell.edu, or join a special working session tomorrow to share insights and experiences. Learn more and RSVP.

**Spotted Lanternfly Update**

As the winter season approaches, the Department is urging New Yorkers to shift their focus from looking for adult Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) to looking for egg masses. Egg masses can be found on trees, cars, and any outdoor equipment and if any are found, the Department encourages residents to scrape and destroy them. A good resource is this video.

In addition, you can reach out to the Department at anne.mills@agriculture.ny.gov for a SLF scraper card (photo to the right), which can be used to scrape egg masses off of surfaces before they hatch.

Additionally, please be aware! In the effort to combat SLF, some have been using sticky traps as a non-chemical control. However, this is causing accidental harm to songbirds, beneficial insects, and small mammals. Please DO NOT use sticky traps to
deal with SLF in your area. Instead, consider using circle traps (pictured here), which do not use sticky tape, preventing unintentional catches of creatures other than SLF. Learn how to properly install this type of trap at [extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-new-style-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap](extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-new-style-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap)

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**Survey Results Show Success of the Great New York State Fair**

The Great New York State Fair is a showcase of all that New York State has to offer, including agriculture! So, if feedback from Fair attendees is any indication, then New York State might be best known for its top-notch entertainment, agriculture (including plants and animals), and of course, its delicious food and beverage selections.

When asked to identify their favorite things about the Fair, surveyed fairgoers in all age groups were in agreement:

- Respondents ranked “Concerts at Chevy Court and Chevy Park” as #3;
- “Agricultural Exhibits” as #2, and;
- “Food and Beverages” as the #1 draw on their lists

More specifically, seven out of 10 people surveyed ranked “Food and Beverages” as their favorite thing about the Fair.

The offerings were provided among eleven selections, which also included “Arts and Crafts Exhibits,” “Non-musical Entertainment,” Cultural Experiences, including “Pan African Village” and “Latino Village,” and the Midway.

The survey also looked at who comes to the Fair and where they are coming from. Nearly 90% of respondents attend the Fair at least once annually, and more than 25% of those surveyed say they attended three times or more during the Fair’s 13-day run. The data also found about 40% of fairgoers live in Onondaga County, the county where the Great New York State Fair is held, but 44% drove more than 50 minutes!

In total, nearly 2,000 people were surveyed – reflecting a sampling of the nearly 900,000 people who attended the 2022 Fair. Planning is already underway for the 2023 Great New York State Fair, which begins Wednesday, August 23 and continues through Monday, September 4, 2023.
Shop Taste NY This Holiday Season!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and it’s never too early to start planning your seasonal shopping! This year, the Department is challenging New Yorkers to help support local farmers and producers by incorporating as many locally produced items into their holiday meals as possible.

From produce like apples, squash, brussels sprouts, and potatoes to artisan cheeses and poultry, New York producers can provide nearly everything you need for a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Plus, you can find craft beverages, cozy teas, and locally crafted gift items to enjoy the holiday spirit to the fullest.

Tag the Department on Instagram at @nyagandmkts or @tasteny with pictures of the holiday bounty on your table! Find a nearby market at taste.ny.gov.

NYS Grown & Certified Takes Part in the Global Produce & Floral Show

In October, the Department was excited to take part in the Global Produce & Floral Show in Orlando, Florida and promote New York’s specialty crops to buyers from around the world under its NYS Grown & Certified label. Growers including Fowler Farms, Hudson River Fruit Distributors, the New York Apple Association, Brooklyn’s Gotham Greens, Smallhold, Minkus Family Farms, Red Jacket Orchards, and Intergrow Greenhouses joined us for this major show. Check out some photos below!
Current Funding Opportunities

- **RFA 0263 - Municipal Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants**
  - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- **RFA 0262 - County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants**
  - 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.

Current Job Opportunities

The Department often has great job opportunities available. Every member of the team is an important part of the agency's core mission to promote New York State agriculture and its high-quality and diverse products; foster agricultural environmental stewardship; and safeguard New York's food supply, land, and livestock. Take a look at the links and descriptions below to learn more about some of the positions and how to apply. Or, visit StateJobsNY to see a full list of the openings.

More information about each position including minimum qualifications, duties, and instructions for how to apply can be found on StateJobsNY at this link: NYS AGM Job Opportunities.

Spotlight: Farm Bureau Farm Tour

In October, the Department joined representatives from the New York Farm Bureau on its annual legislative farm tour. The tour featured stops at six local producers in the Capital Region, including Allenwaite Farm, Slack Hollow Organics, Gardenworks Farm, Battenkill Fibers, Betterbee, and Victory View Vineyard.
The seven-generation, family-run Allenwaite Farm is one of New York’s largest dairies. This year, the farm merged with a neighboring dairy, bringing the herd to 2,200 milking cows.

Last year, Slack Hollow owners Seth Jacobs and Martha Johnson became among the first farmers in New York to receive licenses to grow recreational cannabis.

Nestled in the lush hills of the Black Creek Valley, Gardenworks Farm provides year-long seasonal offerings, from cut flowers and U-Pick berries to seasonal decorations and a wide array of locally made products.
Founded in 2009, Battenkill Fibers provides spinning services for fiber farms and manufactures yarn and fiber products for wholesale and retail markets, producing up to 150 pounds of yarn daily using refurbished traditional milling machinery.

As a leading national supplier of beekeeping-related products, including live bees and hive kits to protective clothing and honey harvesting equipment, Betterbee’s mission is to equip established and aspiring beekeepers with the tools they need to help their hive thrive.

Victory View Vineyard is a family-owned farm winery that blends their homegrown and sustainably harvested cold climate grapes with tributes to local history to craft wines that are unique to the Upper Hudson region.

Thank you to New York Farm Bureau for the tour and to all the farm families who welcomed visitors and took the time to discuss the issues that matter most to them!