



AGM OUTREACH RESOURCE INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (07/07/2023)

Outreach@agriculture.ny.gov is your direct link to New York's Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) for independent communication, questions, concerns, and more. It's purposed to inform the historically underrepresented and underserved within New York's agriculture community.

If you received this message via email forward, use this link to sign-up to directly receive future communication: [AGM Outreach's Information & Opportunities.](#)



INFORMATION

1) **AGM EXECUTIVE OPEN OFFICE HOURS**

AGM will host Virtual Executive Open Office Hours July 12th and 13th! This is a time for New York's individual stakeholders in agriculture to collectively learn more about industry activities, as well as directly communicate with decision-makers. Attendees will hear the background behind *AGM Information & Opportunities* items, learn updated details on activities, and directly connect with AGM.

Register to attend July's Virtual Open Office:

- [Wed., July 12, 2023, 6:00PM-7:00PM EDT](#)
- [Thurs., July 13, 2023, 9:00AM-10:00AM EDT](#)

Should the registration link fail, please directly copy-paste the link into your browser.

2) **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STRUCK DOWN IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS**

On July 6, the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) struck down [affirmative action](#) in college admissions, forcing institutions of higher education to look for new ways to achieve diverse student bodies. The court's conservative majority overturned admissions plans at Harvard and the University of North Carolina, the nation's oldest private and public colleges, respectively. The decision will force elite colleges and universities to revamp their policies and search for new ways to ensure diversity in their student populations. Many schools have said other measures would not be as effective, resulting in fewer minority students on campuses.

3) **BLACK FARMER FUND AND JAMES BEARD AWARD**

Black Farmer Fund Co-Founders, Olivia Watkins and Karen Washington, were honored as James Beard Humanitarians of the Year. The Black Farmer Fund is a community-led investment fund that invests in Black agricultural and food businesses in the Northeast that are dedicated to supporting and empowering Black farmers. The prestigious award marks a historic moment as the fund's founders become the first African-Americans to receive this prize.

4) **ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ACT LISTENING TOUR**

State agencies, local governments, and partners can access funding of up to \$4.2 billion available for environmental and community projects to protect water quality, help communities adapt to climate change, improve resiliency and create green jobs. The Bond Act requires at least 35% of funds (with a goal of 40%) benefit communities considered disadvantaged with the effects of pollution and climate change. This funding will support

new and expanded projects statewide to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change.

Register for the Environmental Bond Act Educational Listening Tour to learn more and provide input:

- [Wed., July 26, 2023, 6:00 - 8:00PM EDT \(Virtual\)](#)
- [Link for in-person meeting dates and locations](#)

5) **RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (RFSI)**

AGM is eligible to receive nearly \$20 million through a new USDA grant. RFSI funds will provide grants for infrastructure projects that expand capacity, create new markets for the state's producers and food processors, and strengthen the New York food system. **Public comment for input is July 13 - July 28.** The information gathered will help the AGM better assess the priorities and needs for these types of grants in New York. During public comment, industry producers and stakeholders can provide feedback through this [comment form](#) and/or register to join a stakeholder discussion group.

- [Open webinar: Thursday, July 13, 2:00PM - 3:30PM](#)
- [Agricultural producer group organizations and agricultural cooperatives: Monday, July 24, 3:00PM - 4:30PM.](#)
- [Processor/ distributor stakeholder webinar: Tuesday, July 25, 11:00AM - 12:30PM](#)
- [Technical Service providers/ organizations serving historically underserved producers: Tuesday, July 25, 2:00PM-3:30PM](#)

6) **AGM NEW GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS ANNOUNCED**

The program administrators for two new New York State grant funds have been announced. The Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust and its fiscal sponsor, Resist Inc. will administer the \$4 million Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmers Grant Program, and the New York Farm Viability Institute will administer the \$1 million. Beginning Farmers Grant Program. These programs will support New York farmers who are new to the field or who face disproportionate social or economic barriers to success.

OPPORTUNITIES



1) **USDA SEEKS MEMBERS for FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The USDA seeks nominations for four positions on the **Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production**. The 12-member Committee, will provide input on policy development and help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities. Representation will include perspectives on urban agriculture, higher education (or extension program),

business and economic development (including community development initiatives, a chamber of commerce, and a city government), and emerging agriculture production practices (indoor, urban, and other innovations).

Deadline: July 15, 2023

Additional details: [Federal Register notice.](#) and [USDA posting](#)

2) **GROWN & CERTIFIED INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT (ITRD)**

The \$5.8 million Program (ITRD) will provide grants on a competitive basis to eligible applicants who will administer a grant program to assist agricultural entities in implementing projects that will invest in critical farm infrastructure, adopt state-of-the-art practices, purchase innovative technology or equipment, or conduct cutting edge research to aid in the development of new products to meet consumer demand marketed under the New York State Grown & Certified program.

Deadline: July 28, 2023

Webinar (Live): [Registration for live webinar July 10, 2023, at 11AM](#)

Webinar Recording: [2023 CFA ITRD Webinar](#)

Questions: NYSGrownandCertified@agriculture.ny.gov

3) [FUTURE OF GREAT LAKES SOLICITS FEEDBACK](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its federal partners developed an updated action plan for the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) (GLRI) and now seek public input. The EPA, will host an important public feedback session to help chart the future of the Great Lakes. In-person feedback session attendees will receive an overview of the GLRI and purpose of the Action Plan before directly interacting with EPA staff to ask questions and provide comments on key priorities, overall plan, climate change impacts, and environmental justice.

Register:

- [Attend in-person](#): Wednesday, July 19, 6-8:00PM @ Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, NY
- [Attend virtually](#): Wednesday, August 23, 5-7:00PM (CDT)

Questions: Email Tseng.antony@epa.gov (Antony Tseng, EPA Region 2, New York Watershed Management Section Supervisor)

4) [FASHION INNOVATION CENTER \(FIC\) APPLICATIONS](#)

The FIC will establish an Accelerator that will focus on, among other things, the creation and distribution of innovative textile-related plant-based and bioengineered materials. The Accelerator will engage stakeholders in agriculture innovation to identify opportunities to develop smart and sustainable materials, create green jobs, promote sustainably produced textiles, support sustainable fashion, and take part in other activities that deliver practical solutions for farmers, businesses, and designers. In this regard, the FIC will tap into a wide range of experts to develop new marketing opportunities for plant and animal fibers grown and laboratory developed materials.

The FIC will work across technology sectors to leverage expertise as appropriate for specific projects or to address certain challenges offer solutions to existing and far-reaching problems that farmers and businesses identify.

Deadline: August 1

Application: [Request for Applications](#)

Questions: Email fashion@esd.ny.gov

5) [HIRING! HUNDREDS of POSITIONS DURING the STATE FAIR](#)

[The Great New York State Fair](#) is hiring for hundreds of positions to help staff its 13-days - August 23 - September 4 (Labor Day).

- [Access job descriptions using this link.](#)
- [Apply for a position.](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINES (use links for details on additional items unlisted above)

- **July 12** [Tribal Consultations and Listening Sessions](#)
 - **July 15** [USDA Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Ag & Innovation](#)
 - **July 19** [Indigenous Animals Harvesting & Meat Processing Grant](#)
 - **(Funding for Culturally Appropriate Food and Food Security in Tribal Communities)**
 - **July 19** [EPA Future of the Great Lakes Feedback Session](#)
 - **July 25** [Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran](#)
 - **July 28** [New York State Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Development Grant](#)
 - **Aug. 1** [USDA Seeks Members for Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)
 - **Aug. 1** [Apply for Farm Service Agency Local Committees](#)
 - **Aug. 1** [Fashion Innovation Center](#)
 - **Aug. 4** [Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America](#)
 - **Aug. 18** [USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#)
 - **Oct. 3** [GROW-NY Youth Business Competition](#)
 - **Dec. 7** [Proposals for Education and Workforce Development](#)
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(receive details and future information directly from the source)

MANRRS

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) promotes academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities to engage and lead in the many diverse roles in and related to agriculture. Charters support members in the 7th grade, see professional development in college, and continue links to the national network as professionals.



Sign up to directly learn of new programs or [watch recorded webinars](#) presenting valuable professional information, historical background, financial insights, and equitable practices.

If you have information of value to share with others in the diverse New York agricultural community, please feel free to send it to Outreach@agriculture.ny.gov to be considered for inclusion in future messages.



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www.agriculture.ny.gov

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