



AGM OUTREACH RESOURCE INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (09/06/2023)

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 purpose is to inform the historically underrepresented and underserved within New York's agriculture community regarding current events and opportunities in agriculture.

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



INFORMATION

1) **AGM EXECUTIVE OPEN OFFICE HOURS**

AGM will host Virtual Executive Open Office Hours on September 20 and 21! This is a time for New York's individual stakeholders in agriculture to collectively learn more about industry activities, as well as to 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 September's Virtual Executive Open

Office Hours:

- [Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:00-7:00 pm EDT](#)
- [Thursday, Sept. 21, 9:00-10:00 am EDT](#)

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

2) **FARM BILL FORUM**

The September Farm Foundation Forum, *What to Expect From the 2023 Farm Bill Now*, will provide an updated forecast into the current factors influencing the next Farm Bill and possible policy outcomes. The Forum will take place via Zoom September 26 at 9:00 am CST. A question and answer session will follow the live presentation.

- [Learn about the Farm Bill](#) - a package of federal legislation addressing agriculture, nutrition, and food system-related services, programs, and funding that expires every five years.
- [Register to attend](#) the Farm Foundation Forum.

3) **MANRRS AND FFA PARTNERSHIP**

The [National FFA Organization](#) and [Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Science \(MANRRS\)](#) are two national organizations engaging youth in agriculture to help them gain experience and professional skills. The two organizations recently signed a memorandum of understanding to create an alliance with the shared goal of growing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the agricultural industry.

4) **MAY FROST/FREEZE DISASTER DESIGNATION**

Over thirty counties across New York have been designated as a primary natural disaster area by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) following the late May 2023 frost/freeze event, which resulted in significant impacts to growers. AGM will host an industry-wide webinar Wednesday, September 13 (1:00 - 2:00 pm EDT) to provide

information on the application process for USDA's Farm Service Agency emergency loans and to answer any questions.

5) **NEW YORK STATE (NYS) GOVERNOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(All announcements are also available in Spanish translation via the same links.)

- [Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington](#)
- [Statement on Recent Gun Violence](#)
- [Extension of Executive Order State of Emergency for Asylum Seeker Crisis](#)
- [Governor Joins Historic Meeting at Onondaga Nation Longhouse](#)
- [First Woman of Color Appointment as Presiding Justice of NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department](#)
- [Small Business Microloans](#)

Plus, check out the [pressroom](#) to read more news directly from the Office of the Governor.

OPPORTUNITIES



1) **FUNDING: FRESHCONNECT CSA FOR SNAP**

The FreshConnect CSA for SNAP program will provide funding to eligible organizations to partially subsidize the cost of CSA shares to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants. New York producers are eligible to receive up to 50% of the cost of a weekly share purchased by a SNAP recipient with their SNAP benefits through an awarded third-party applicant. Applications may request a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 (maximum 20% of the

award may be used for administrative costs). Learn more about FreshConnect CSA for SNAP program and application process here: [FreshConnect CSA for SNAP Program Overview](#).

2) **FUNDING: NEW YORK FORWARD LOAN FUND 2**

Empire State Development's (ESD) New York Forward 2 program aims to disburse an initial \$150 million with plans to recycle and lend additional funds over the life of the program. Working through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), the funds will assist in accomplishing the program's broader goal of investing in underfunded businesses, specifically those owned by people of color, women, Veterans, and the LGBTQ+ community. Microloans (loans between \$500 and \$25,000) and regular loans (typically as large as \$250,000 or more depending upon the lender) are available with terms based upon each lender's individual offerings. Funds will focus on helping small businesses and not-for-profit organizations, particularly those in low-income and historically underbanked communities and rural areas, access flexible working capital to cover a wide range of expenses. Learn more about this loan opportunity here: [New York Forward Loan Fund](#).

3) **CAREER: AGRICULTURAL CDL TRAINING**

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE Erie) is in its second year offering an Agricultural Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training program with flexible schedule. Designed for drivers who have some experience with commercial truck operation, there is an open enrollment to directly schedule with the contracted instructor and complete an on-line version of the required "Entry Level Driver Training" program. CDL requirements, scheduling, and additional program information are available here: [CCE-Erie Ag CDL Training-Erie](#).

4) **CAREER: NYS INTERNSHIPS**

New York State's Student Intern Program webpage is a centralized location that helps undergraduate and graduate students view job descriptions and submit applications for all New York State government internships. Interns work within a New York State executive branch agency or department and gain valuable experience with government leaders and policymakers. [Applications for fall 2023 internships are open through September 14.](#)

- Deadline: September 14, 2023
- Application: [Student Internship Opportunities with New York State](#)
- Contact for questions: nysinternships@cs.ny.gov or (518) 473-9945.

5) FUNDING: DISCRIMINATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DFAP)

As part of the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Section 22007, the USDA's DFAP will provide financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners (producers) who experienced discrimination by USDA in USDA's farm lending prior to January 1, 2021. Payments for approved Applications will be delivered early next calendar year by check through the US mail.

- Deadline: October 31, 2023
- Application: [Discrimination Financial Assistance Program](#)
- Assistance: [DFAP Assistance](#) (including weekly program overview sessions and application assistance)
- Contact for questions: DFAP Phone Support (800)721-0970 (8:00am EDT - 8:00 pm PT)

KEY DATES & DEADLINES (click each link for details on additional items)

- Ongoing: [FSA Conservation Reserve Program](#)
- Ongoing: [NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry](#)
- Ongoing: [County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants](#)
- Ongoing: [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (financial and technical assistance)
- Sept.13: [Webinar: Farm Service Agency Emergency Loans](#)
- Sept.13: [Virtual Conference: Farm Households' Social and Economic Needs and the Future of Agriculture](#)
- Sept.14: [NYS Internships](#)
- Sept.15: [Young Dairy Leaders Institute](#) (ages 22-45)
- Sept.26: [Farm Bill Forum](#)
- Oct.3: [GROW-NY Youth Business Competition](#)
- Oct.31: [Discrimination Financial Assistance Program](#)
- Nov.1: [FreshConnect CSA for SNAP Program](#)
- Nov.17: [AGM Land Trusts Grants](#)
- Dec.7: [Proposals for Education and Workforce Development](#)

DIRECT SIGN-UP

(Receive details and future information directly from the source)

[NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION](#)

The National Young Farmers Coalition works in partnership with social justice movements for a future in which people, land, and relationships are respected. Young farmers, when resourced and trained to share their stories with lawmakers, can remake the food system to be more equitable, just, and in service to our communities and the land. [Subscribe to directly receive news, updates, and actions.](#)



[DIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE WEBPAGE](#)

AGM's Diversity in Agriculture webpage provides a primary online location of information for those in all stages of their agriculture careers. The page provides links to a range of diverse and content-specific resources.

[SUBSCRIBE to AGM Outreach's Information & Opportunities](#) to directly receive future communications in your inbox.



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