



Empire State
Council of Agricultural Organizations, Inc.

Farmer Led Research and Extension Programs:

Farmers in New York have a long history of supporting and leading research, then disseminating the information through extension and finally, applying the results of that research to their farms. Farmers prioritize the challenges to be addressed to keep their farms innovative, profitable and environmentally sustainable.

They are constantly analyzing to identify new concerns and challenges. New York has many programs where farmers directly decide what research they need to solve the issues they encounter and ensure their future in agricultural production. Many line items in the state budget follow this principle.

Some fund projects in agriculture, such as the NY Farm Viability Institute ... *See page 7 - CAO Policy Book*

Some are very specific to important parts of New York agriculture, such as:

- Apple research *See page 14 - CAO Policy Book for more information*
- Berry research *See page 14 - CAO Policy Book for more information*
- Concord grape research *See page 18 - CAO Policy Book for more information*
- Maple research *See page 19 - CAO Policy Book for more information*
- Vegetable research *See page 20 - CAO Policy Book for more information*

It should be noted that in many cases, the farmers are also putting their own money and time into these research projects, leveraging the state investment. Having the state invest in this research is critical for keeping New York farmers innovative and viable to produce the food and other agricultural products needed by the residents of our state.

Ag Education & Workforce Development:

The Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO) recognizes that agriculture is the most basic and singularly important industry in the state, and central to the welfare and economic stability of the state. Maintaining of this vital industry requires a reliable source of trained and qualified individuals for employment in agriculture and agribusiness.

It is in the best interest of the state's residents to enhance and maintain a comprehensive education program in agriculture within the public school system. Such a program will help ensure an adequate supply of trained and skilled individuals. It should serve all racial and ethnic groups and include all aspects of the industry. A K through 12 agricultural curriculum should be readily available so all school districts have the opportunity to include it as a subject in its curriculum.

Furthermore, agriculture is facing a labor shortage of crisis proportions. CAO suggests the following legislation be introduced:

1. Introduction of legislation in support of Agricultural Education in New York public schools, and
2. The establishment of a Commission for Agriculture Education led by the Commissioners of Agriculture, Education, and Labor, stakeholders from relevant business, industry, workforce development, and education who are appointed by the Governor.

See pages 29 and 37 of the CAO Policy Book for more information.

Climate and Renewable Energy Issues

Agriculture plays a vital role in combatting climate change with many farmers having already implemented climate smart practices on their farms across the state. It is important that as the legislature discusses new policies regarding renewable energy and transitioning to non-carbon energy sources, the impact on agriculture is taken into consideration, including the availability, reliability, and affordability of that technology.

1. Adoption of renewable energy policies must incorporate reasonable time frames based upon grid capacity and practical realities of electrification in the state.
2. Requiring a transition to electric trucks and farm equipment is only viable if the technology is affordable and reliable for farmers.
3. Renewable fuels, such as natural gas, ethanol and biodiesel, are important options to reducing emissions related to transportation and home heating.
4. There needs to be continued incentives for climate smart agricultural practices, such as advanced nutrient management, cover cropping and reduced tillage.
5. As research continues on the concept of agrivoltaics, an incentive-based approach is needed to incorporate the dual use of solar and agriculture on the same parcel of land.

See pages 21-22 and 35 of the CAO Policy Book for more information.

Transportation Issues

Transportation issues are significantly impacting New York agriculture's ability to remain economically viable. Transportation issues impact our ability to harvest crops, market perishable foods, and provide feed and supplies to farms. Driver demand outpaces supply, an aging infrastructure presents challenges, and climate change policies are pushing to eliminate fossil fueled vehicles. Severe weather events have also caused significant challenges along every step of the food supply chain. Absent thoughtful solutions, New York's agriculture industry will become increasingly uncompetitive with other states.

- Support the executive budget proposal for the Farm and Food Growth Fund to provide grants to farms to expand on-farm milk storage capacity, improve efficiencies, invest in milk transfer systems, cooling technologies, or other purposes helpful in storing or transporting milk.
- Support the clean fuel standard (S1292/A964A).
- Support infrastructure improvements, including maintenance and improvements of roads, bridges, and railroads to allow for the movement of farm equipment and transporting commodities to the marketplace.
- During travel bans, after emergency and other vehicles critical to public safety and well-being, vehicles associated with transporting, processing, or distributing perishable agricultural products should be given priority on roads.
- Support workforce development efforts to attract more truck drivers.
- Remove barriers to obtaining CDLs, such as decreasing costs associated with training, reforming arduous testing, removing restrictions on driver age for licensing and insurability, and reducing licensing requirements when driving between farm locations under the same ownership.

See page 24 of the CAO Policy Book for more information.


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AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM FUNDING	2023-2024 Final Budget	2024-2025 Executive Proposal	2024-2025 CAO Requests
Diagnostic Lab Programs at Cornell			
Animal Health Surveillance & Control Programs	\$481,000	\$ -	\$481,000
Avian Disease Program		-	
Cattle Health Assurance		-	
Johnes Disease		-	
Quality Milk Production			
	lump sum \$8,270,000	lump sum \$8,270,000	\$8,270,000
30% Farm to School Program (Education Budget)	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
AFT Farmland for a New Generation	\$500,000	\$0	\$850,000
Ag in the Classroom	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Agribusiness Child Development Program	\$10,410,000	\$10,300,000	\$10,410,000
Agricultural Economic Development	\$2,020,000	\$2,020,000	
Apple Association	\$790,000	\$483,000	\$2,000,000
Apple Research	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$700,000
Association of Ag Educators	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Barley Evaluation and Inspection	\$353,000	\$303,000	\$353,000
Berry Growers Association (FVI)	\$61,000	\$61,000	\$61,000
Berry Research	\$263,000	\$263,000	\$263,000
Black Farmers United of NYS	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Cannabis Association	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Christmas Tree Promotion	\$126,000	\$126,000	\$126,000
Corn and Soybean Growers	\$125,000	\$76,000	\$125,000
Cornell Agrivoltaics Study	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Cornell Concord Grape Research	\$252,000	\$202,000	\$250,000
Cornell Dairy Entrepreneurship & Innovation Hub	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Cornell Farm Labor Specialist	\$401,000	\$702,000	\$702,000
Cornell Industrial Hemp Research and Workforce Development	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Cornell IPM	\$0	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000
Cornell Pro Livestock Program	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Cornell Small Farms Equitable Farm Futures	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Cornell University Small Farms Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Cornell Urban Ag Education and Outreach	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Dairy Excellence and Dairy Profit Teams	\$374,000	\$374,000	\$374,000
Double Up Food Bucks (Office of Temporary Disability Budget)	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Elisabeth Haub School of Law Pro Bono advice to small farms	\$225,000	\$225,000	
Empire Sheep Producers Association	\$50,000	\$0	\$60,000
Farm Net (Farm Family Assistance)	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Farm to School Initiative	\$1,508,000	\$1,508,000	\$1,508,000
Farm Viability Institute	\$1,900,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,500,000
Farmers Market Federation-EBT program	\$139,000	\$139,000	\$139,000
Farmers Market Resiliency Program	\$700,000	Moved to EPF	
FFA	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000

Golden Nematode	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000
Hard Cider Research	\$202,000	\$202,000	\$202,000
Harvest NY	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
Honeybee Research	\$152,000	\$152,000	\$152,000
Hop Growers of NY-Promotion/Grower Pilot Program	\$50,000	\$0	\$480,000
Hops Breeding and Research	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program HPNAP (Health Budget)	\$56,470,000	\$34,547,000	\$64,000,000
John May Farm Safety Fund	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Long Island Seafood Cuisine Trail	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
Maple Producers Association	\$227,000	\$152,000	\$250,000
Maple Research	\$151,000	\$76,000	\$250,000
Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Science College Program	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Natural Fibers Development Workgroup	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
New York Brewers Promotion	\$100,000	\$76,000	\$100,000
New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH)		\$1,250,000 + \$1,000,000 in DOH	\$2,350,000
New York Cider Association	\$100,000	\$76,000	\$100,000
New York Distillers' Guild	\$100,000	\$76,000	\$100,000
NOFA-NY	\$175,000	\$0	
North Country Ag Development	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
NOURISH NY	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$75,000,000
Onion Research	\$71,000	\$51,000	\$71,000
Premium funds for Fairs	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$600,000
Pro Dairy	\$1,463,000	\$1,213,000	\$1,463,000
Promotion for Fairs	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
School Meals for All Funding	\$134,600,000	\$134,600,000	\$220,100,000
Tractor rollover protection program/On-Farm Safety	\$250,000	in NYCAMH Gen. Approp.	
Training/Recruiting new entrants in food & agricultural fields	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship	\$175,000	\$0	\$200,000
Vegetable Research	\$126,000	\$51,000	\$250,000
Wine & Grape Foundation	\$1,225,000	\$1,075,000	\$1,225,000
CAPITAL FUNDING			
Dairy Farm Modernization Grant, Farm and Food Growth Fund		\$24,000,000	\$24,000,000
Cornell Industrial Hemp program- biomaterial processing		\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Long Island Aquaculture Grant Program and Long Island Seafood feasibility study		\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
NY Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Building Expansion	\$0	\$0	\$19,400,000

EPF FUNDING	2023-2024 Final Budget	2024-2025 Executive Proposal	2024-2025 CAO Requests
Agricultural Nonpoint	\$19,500,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,500,000
Agricultural IPM	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Suffolk CCE nutrient management	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Cornell pesticide management education program	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Ag. Waste Management	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
CALS Pollinator BMP's	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Clean Sweep Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Climate & Applied Forestry Research Institute	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Climate Resilient Farming	\$15,250,000	\$15,250,000	\$15,250,000
Cornell Dairy Acceleration Program	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000
Cornell Soil Health Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Farmland Protection	\$21,000,000	\$18,250,000	\$25,000,000
Forest Preservation on Ag. Land for Carbon Sequestration	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Invasive Species	\$18,550,000	\$17,000,000	\$18,550,000
Long Island Pesticide Prevention	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Pollinator Diversity Research	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Regenerate NY Grant Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
SWCD	\$16,000,000	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000
Tug Hill Tomorrow for Ft. Drum ACUB	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	
Wood Products Development Council	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Agricultural Education, FFA, Agriculture in the Classroom and Urban Ag Education: Creating an Agriculturally Literate Generation & Developing Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow

The agricultural education outreach programs housed at Cornell University fulfill a critical role to educate all youth about the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of food and fibers across New York State, as well as the career opportunities that abound in our state's growing agriculture food and natural resources industries.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources careers employ more New Yorkers than any other industry in our state. As the average age of NY Farmers continues to rise, fewer New Yorkers have a connection to the integrated New York food system. A growing population with diverse preferences and emerging economic and environmental challenges demand an engaged and well-prepared workforce. Agricultural Education and FFA leadership development address the growing public demands for sustainability, access to safe and diverse food, and strengthened investment into interconnected and local food systems. Significant investments in Pre-K through 12 agricultural education attract more youth to the in-demand careers in agriculture and elevate community agricultural literacy in a way that positively impacts NY agriculture through consumer and citizen choices.

Support 2024-2025 Executive Budget Funding Levels:

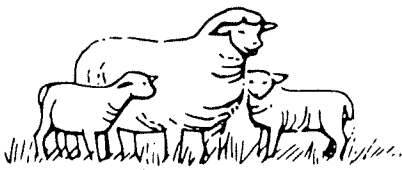
- New York FFA- \$1,000,000**
- Youth Pathways Agricultural Careers Summit - \$250,000 (onetime)**
- New York Association of Ag. Educators - \$500,000**
- New York Agriculture in the Classroom - \$500,000**
- New York Urban Agriculture Education - \$250,000**

Plans and Key Accomplishments

- Strengthen the state's agricultural sector through the preparation of diverse skilled workers and increased agricultural literacy among the state's school-aged students, over 500,000 youth reached annually.
- Facilitate virtual and in-person programs and trainings to promote the use of food and agriculture as authentic learning experiences to meet curricular goals in grades PreK-12 in all 62 counties in New York State.
- Grow urban agricultural education programs, agricultural literacy, and increase the number of FFA chapters in our under-served densely populated areas.
- Resources for secondary schools to start new or upgrade existing agricultural education and FFA programs. 122 schools across NYS received funds in FY23 to grow programs.
- Virtual and hybrid professional development to retain teachers and enhance the instructional programs for agricultural educators through in-service with activity-based workshops that address the needs of constantly changing agriscience programs.
- To address the critical shortage of certified agricultural educators the teacher recruitment and retention services are supporting growing quality programs. In 2023, forty-eight new educators participated in the new teacher induction and mentoring program.
- Teach youth about the importance of eating healthy, fresh foods by providing schools with indoor grow systems, curriculum, and professional development to extend the school gardening season.
- Support growth of existing programs and development of new programs through financial and programmatic support. In 2023, New York FFA chartered 16 new chapters, including growth in urban programs. Student membership grew by 29% with 198 chartered FFA chapters statewide and growing. In 2023, more than 2,200 students, educators and guests attended our New York state convention.



FOR MORE INFORMATION | www.nysffa.org | www.agclassroom.org/ny/



Empire Sheep Producers Association

Keith Stumbo, President

PO Box 121, Honeoye, NY 14471 585-367-2775

ABOUT THE SHEEP INDUSTRY IN NEW YORK STATE – 87,000 SHEEP AND GROWING!

The sheep industry in NYS continues to grow despite a national declining trend. NYS is one of only 3-4 states in the US in which there is an increase in both the number of sheep and in the number of sheep farmers. NYS ranks 13th in the US in lamb, wool, and sheep dairy production combined. Wool production in NYS in 2019 was 290,000 pounds (up 7.4%).

NYS's sheep industry supports the production of hay, feed, and other agribusinesses; and is keeping farmland in production. **The sheep industry is climate beneficial – farming practices sequester carbon and products made from wool are fully biodegradable at the end of their life cycle.** With relatively low costs of entry and small acreage requirements, sheep farming attracts many young and beginning farmers.

In 2018, a new annual line item was established in the NYS Ag Budget to provide funding for the Empire Sheep Producers Association's sheep and wool education and marketing initiatives. In each of 2022, 2023, and 2024, the Association received \$50,000 to help extend the NY Grown and Certified branding program to wool products and several other producers and consumer education and marketing projects.

2024-25 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT SHEEP AND WOOL EDUCATION AND MARKETING

<u>NY Grown & Certified program involvement; and support for new Textile Act Workgroup and Textile Innovation Center.</u> Collaborate with NYS Dept of Ag and Markets, Empire State Development, and others in engaging with members of industry to encourage their adoption of wool products certification standards and continue to assist in brand promotional activities with wholesale and retail consumers. Support new farmer and agri-business recruitment.	\$20,000
<u>Wool marketing initiative.</u> Support for collaborative research and marketing projects being undertaken through partnerships among the Association, fiber processing facilities, Cornell University, and others. Support for Make-it-Yourself-With-Wool Contest and for textile artist education at fiber festivals. Support for ASI wool classing certification program in NYS.	\$20,000
<u>Youth and beginning farmer education and training.</u> Support for youth sheep shows and adult education on getting started or increasing profitability of raising sheep for meat, dairy, and wool. Includes support for 2023 NYS Sheep Symposium, beginning fiber farmer workshops, and the new NYS Ewe Show.	\$10,000
<u>State Fair Wool Center exhibits and others.</u> Increase understanding of the value that the NYS sheep industry adds to the quality of people's lives and to the state's economy. Design, fabricate and install exhibits in new Sheep Barn at Fair and duplicate for use at county fairs and NYS Sheep and Wool Festival.	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$60,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mary Jeanne Packer, ESPA Secretary

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TURFGRASS ADVOCACY 2024

NEW YORK STATE TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION



THE TURFGRASS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP FUND

REQUEST

We respectfully request that a line item of \$200,000 be appropriated for the New York Greengrass Association in the 2024-2025 budget for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund.

BACKGROUND

The turfgrass industry is an important industry in New York State. According to the New York State Turfgrass Survey, close to 3.5 million acres in the state are covered with turfgrass, consisting of lawns, parks, golf courses, sports fields, sod farms, industrial and institutional grounds, rights of way, etc. Five billion dollars of turf maintenance expenses contributed to the State's economy.

Turfgrass has a major impact on the quality of life, as was evident as citizens enjoyed outdoor activities during Covid. Healthy turfgrass provides countless environmental benefits such as storing carbon, holding rainfall for groundwater recharge, reducing erosion, filtering pollutants, absorbing sound, cooling the air temperature and providing plentiful, clean oxygen. Dense, healthy turfgrass provides a safe playing surface for our children and athletes of all ages as well as beautifies and softens our urban landscapes.

A \$200,000 appropriation for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund provides for education and outreach promoting environmentally sustainable and safe practices of turfgrass management.

The 2023-2024 State Budget's Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund appropriation was to fund the following projects:

**Best Management Practices for NYS Golf Courses:
Continued Implementation of Golf Course Environmental Stewardship Efforts**

Workforce Development: Apprenticeship Program *(see reverse)*

Green Industry Educational Webinars – Development & Implementation

Promote Professionalism Through Research and Education – Phase VII

Environmental Stewardship Education for the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association

Environmental Stewardship Education for the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association

New York Greengrass Association Outreach

NYSTA PERSPECTIVE

It is the mission of NYSTA to promote professionalism through education and research while advocating environmentally responsible management. Supporting the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund assists in providing education to turfgrass professionals who are constantly challenged to meet expectations for quality, safety, and environmental sustainability.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Workforce Development: Apprenticeship Program

NYSTA's Apprenticeship Program was approved by NYSDOL In 2023 and continues to evolve as part of NYSTA's Strategic Plan and New York State's Workforce Development initiative. These will tie into the Registered Apprenticeship Programs - Engine Mechanic/Technician Apprenticeship and the Groundskeeper Apprenticeship programs. As these programs evolve, our plan is to expand this initiative to include New York State School Districts that offer Agriculture Education and have FFA Chapters. Therefore, the development of a Pre-Apprenticeship program will be the next phase that emphasizes career pathways in the Turf Management Industry. The main objective will focus on working closely with NYSTA Board designee and FFA/Agriculture Educators at the High School level to develop a Career Technical Education (CTE) program in Turfgrass Management., assist with the development of an implementation plan, policies and strategy to allow NYSTA to expand Workforce Development, and Community Outreach services for the turf industry that currently either does not exist or is limited in scope.

TYLER BLOOM CONSULTING | **THE NEW YORK STATE TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION** | **Delhi**

MYTH OR FACTS

ABOUT TURFGRASS CAREERS

- MYTH:** Turfgrass Management is simple and unskilled work. **FACT:** Contrary to this belief, professional turfgrass management is a complex field requiring knowledge in botany, chemistry, environmental science, and technology.
- MYTH:** The turfgrass industry has a little economic impact. **FACT:** This sector contributes \$84B to the economy and provides numerous jobs.
- MYTH:** Turfgrass management isn't just about mowing lawns. **FACT:** Diverse career opportunities include a golf course superintendent, sports turf manager, landscape designer, environmental specialist, and more. There are paths in science, business, and technology within this field.
- MYTH:** There's no formal education pathway. **FACT:** To get into this field, you can study turfgrass science, horticulture, environmental science, or related subjects in college. NYSTA also offers a two-year Registered Apprenticeship for those needing assistance for further education.

THE NEW YORK STATE TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION | **TYLER BLOOM CONSULTING** | **Delhi**

Discover Careers IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

Thinking about a cool job that lets you make a difference, meet awesome people, care for the environment, grow in your career, and earn well? Check out these exciting careers in greenskeeping and turfgrass:

- Turf Manager:** Taking charge of keeping public and private landscapes beautiful.
- Golf Course Superintendent:** Taking charge of keeping the greens pristine and working closely with golf enthusiasts.
- Sports Turf Manager:** Imagine being the leader of a team that makes sports fields look amazing!
- Park Manager:** Manage the grounds of parks and estates, designing beautiful outdoor spaces that everyone can enjoy.
- Educator:** Share your passion for the outdoors, teaching students about horticulture, landscape design, and sustainable practices.
- Landscape Manager:** Design outdoor spaces like a real-life artist. Choose plants, arrange features, and bring landscapes to life!
- Industry Supplier:** Be at the forefront of the green industry! Learning about the latest tools and technologies that make turf managers successful.
- Environmental Specialist:** Care for grounds using eco-friendly practices, like saving water and using natural pest control methods.
- Irrigation Specialist:** Discover the secrets of irrigation, ensuring that turfgrass, trees, and shrubs stay happy and hydrated. Be the go-to person for keeping landscapes lush.



2024 Budget Priorities

ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTED IN FINAL BUDGET

- \$250,000 increase for PRO-DAIRY Core Program
- \$100,000 Increase for FarmNet
- \$250,000 increase for PRO-LIVESTOCK
- \$500,000 for the Dairy Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub

NEW FUNDING PROPOSED IN EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Supported by NEAFA

- \$300,000 additional funding for Cornell's Farm Labor Specialist
- \$1 million in additional funding for NYCAMH
- \$24 million in Capital for the Dairy Farm Good and Growth fund
- \$250,000 for the Agricultural Youth Leadership Conference
- \$2.25 million for Cornell's IPM program

ARTICLE VII PROPOSALS

- Support repeal of COVID-19 leave
- Oppose expansion of the "Deceptive" Practices Act



The Northeast Dairy Producers Association FY 2024-2025 Executive Budget Priorities

Increase Funding to Bolster New York's Dairy Industry

Support the Executive's \$1.213 million proposal to support Cornell PRO Dairy; and Restore \$250,000 needed to maintain the support of the Climate Leadership Specialist position within Cornell's PRO-DAIRY Program, which assists farmers with science-based environmental stewardship practices and supports farms' ongoing efforts to meet state and national climate mandates.

Support the Executive's \$19 million for nonpoint source pollution control; and add \$500,000 to fully fund the program, which helps family dairy farms with costly Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water quality regulations.

Add \$500,000 for the Cornell Dairy Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hub.

Support Proposals in the Executive Budget

Support the Executive's \$24 million proposal for the Dairy Farm Modernization Grant, Farm and Food Growth Fund.

Support the Executive's proposal of \$702,000 to maintain Cornell's Farm Labor Specialist Positions. The Ag Workforce Development Program helps farms comply with complex state and federal regulations, employee housing requirements, and facilities management. It also promotes farm apprenticeship and supports career and leadership growth opportunities.

Support the Executive's \$1.25 million proposal for the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health. This new funding is directed to "On-farm health and safety program administered by Mary Imogene Basset hospital" in the Aid to Localities appropriations bill (S.8303/A.8803). NYCAMH provides essential on-farm bilingual health and safety training to farmworkers.

Support the Executive's \$18 million proposal to support the environmental stewardship efforts of Local Soil & Water Districts.

Support the Executive's \$700,000 proposal for Cornell's Dairy Advancement Program, previously known as the Dairy Acceleration Program. (EPF)

Support the Executive's \$374,000 proposal for Cornell's Dairy Profit Teams, which support beginning farmers who have been in operation for 4-9 years.

The Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA), which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023, represents progressive family dairy farms ranging in size from 160 to over 7,000 cows. In total, NEDPA represents nearly 240,000 cows, which equates to more than half the milk produced in New York State.

Website: www.NEDPA.org

LinkedIn: [company/northeast-dairy-producers-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/northeast-dairy-producers-association)

Twitter: @NEDPA_NY

FB: @NortheastDairyProducersAssociation

Enact Policy that Supports the Viability of Family Dairy Farms and the Security of New York State's Food Supply

Labor and the Workforce

Fix the Farm Employer Overtime Credit

Currently, not all farms are eligible for the tax credit. NEDPA is working with the Executive on a solution to include all farms. There is potential this will be included in the budget.

Oppose: S1604-D (Ramos) – Temperature Extreme Mitigation Program (TEMP) Act

NEDPA opposes this bill due to its onerous and duplicative policies.

- Training already exists to support farmer and farmworker health and wellness, including bilingual training provided by certified specialists through the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, a program of the Bassett Healthcare Network.
- The proposed TEMP Act is also preempted by the Occupational Safety and Health Act at the federal level, and OSHA is currently working on additional rule making.
- This bill would add significantly more data tracking, reporting, and paperwork, which is too herculean of a task for family farms already drowning in regulatory filings.

Environmental Conservation

Support: A.964-A (Woerner) / S.1292 (Parker) – Clean Fuel Standard

NEDPA fully supports this legislation as it would bolster in-state renewable natural gas markets and create more opportunities for family dairy farms to produce biogas through anaerobic digestion.

Oppose as written: S.4246-A (Harckham) / A.5322-A – Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

NEDPA has been working with our cooperatives to fully understand its impact and offer suggested changes. Dairy foods are packaged based on optimal food safety and quality, and state and federal regulations. The industry has been working to use more environmentally friendly packing for years. Additionally, the current look-back period of the bill would not capture all of industry's improvements.

Watershed Stewardship

Dairy farmers are the original recyclers and stewards of the land. Every decision on a farm is science-based to preserve our natural resources. NEDPA supports policy that empowers farmers to continue working with our partners at state agencies and in academia to protect water quality across the state.





NYFVI: Creating the Knowledge that Farmers Need.

Our Mission:

To help New York farmers become more profitable and improve the long-term economic viability and sustainability of our state's farms, the food system, and the communities which they serve.

We strive to achieve our mission through a **farmer-driven** grant making process connecting **farmer-identified** needs to practical research and education solutions.

Creation and sharing of knowledge results in positive **farm-level impact**.

Led by farmers, focused on profitability and sustainability, the New York Farm Viability Institute funds agricultural research and education projects delivering positive farm-level impact.

Founded in 2005 as an independent nonprofit, NYFVI connects ag research and education dollars with the highest priorities of New York's farmers.

Farmer input at every step in the process ensures the projects funded will create and share knowledge that farmers need. Since the beginning, more than 300 farmers have reviewed over 1,000 proposals for competitive grants. Any organization is eligible to submit a proposal, and work can benefit any type of agriculture. Statewide outreach is required of every project.

Strategic Priorities

- Improving Operational Practices
- Fostering Industry-wide Innovation
- Incubating New Ideas
- Building Routes to Market & Improving Marketing Practices
- Developing Human Capital



Measurable Outcomes

- Increased Revenue
- Reduced Input Costs
- Capital Investments
- Jobs

Pressure on NY's farmers to adapt practices continues to grow.

Climate change, consumer preferences, loss of pesticides, pesticide resistance, labor costs, and shortages drive the need and urgency for improved methods, new solutions, and increased efficiency.

That's why NYFVI's funding is more important now than ever.

**2024-25
Funding Request
\$2.5 million**



Herbicide resistance is becoming increasingly common— this NYFVI funded project is evaluating a non-chemical approach to weed management using an electrical discharge system.

NYFVI's approach to funding creates value.

Collectively, **302** completed projects have helped farmers realize **\$149 Million**— measured by increased revenue, reduced operating costs, and capital investment.

Any organization is eligible to submit proposals.

Projects create and share knowledge.

Nearly 7 dollars in return for every dollar invested in a project.

To learn more about NYFVI-funded projects, visit: www.nyfvi.org



NYFVI DIRECTORS

Karyn Agle
NYS Vegetable Growers Assoc.

Matt Eckhardt
NY Corn & Soybean Growers Assoc.

Tony LaPierre
NY Farm Bureau

Brian Reeves
NYS Council of Agricultural Orgs.

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Finance Manager

Aileen Randolph
Producer Grant Programs

Penny Heritage
Grants Coordinator

Piloting New Models of Working

Change Management

NYFVI is leading a project, funded as a cooperative agreement with the USDA APHIS, to examine the use of benchmarking on dairy farms as a strategy to adopt new practices. Collaborators include four regional CCE specialists, private-sector veterinarians, and a behavioral science consultancy.

Building Aquaculture Knowledge for Community Gardens

NYFVI is supporting a project with SUNY Morrisville to document infrastructure needs, labor, maintenance, yield estimates, and costs for various aquaculture systems. This work will allow urban and community gardens to assess if integrating aquaculture is a good fit for their operation.

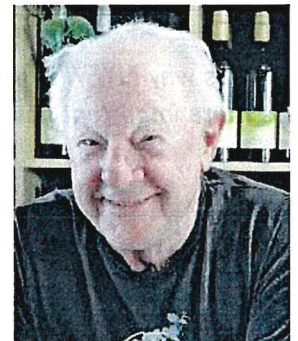
NYFVI Board Officers



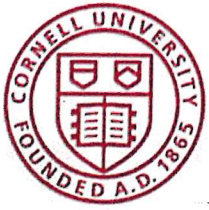
Aaron Allen, Chair
Northeast Dairy Producers Association



Pauline Drexler, Vice Chair
At-large member, Livestock



John Martini, Secretary/Treasurer
At-large member, Wine & Grape Industries



Cornell CALS

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Cornell CALS would be pleased to provide you with additional detailed information on any of these programs.

Contact:

Julie Suarez

jcs433@cornell.edu

Cornell CALS & CCE help support New York's \$65B food system. We work together, encouraging local food production and rebuilding communities by focusing on health, nutrition, youth and workforce education, and critically – on-farm economic and environmental sustainability. As the state's Land Grant partner for over 150 years, CALS and CCE are proud of our legacy and look forward to helping NY grow in all of our communities.

Cornell CALS & CCE 2024-25 Budget Priorities

Cornell CALS supports the Governor's proposal to fully fund many programs, including NYS IPM, Cornell Small Farms, NY FarmNet, and our agricultural education programs including FFA.

Program restorations needed:

Agriculture & Markets ATL: Total (restoration)

- Cornell Barley R&D: \$353,000 (\$50,000 restore)
- Cornell Concord Grape R&D: \$250,000 (\$48,000 restore)
- Cornell Hops R&D: \$300,000 (\$300,000 restore)
- Cornell Maple R&D: \$151,000 (\$75,000 restore)
- Cornell Onion R&D: \$70,000 (\$19,000 restore)
- Cornell PRO-DAIRY: \$1.463M (\$250,000 restore)
- Cornell PRO-LIVESTOCK \$250,000 (\$250,000 restore)
- Cornell Vegetable R&D: \$126,000 (\$75,000 restore)

Office of Mental Health ATL:

Cornell NY FarmNet: \$500,000 (\$100,000 restore)

Empire State Development Corp. ATL:

Cornell AgriTech Center of Excellence in Food & Agriculture Innovation: \$1M (\$104,545 restore)



Capital Request - \$5M

Cornell CALS is deeply appreciative of the Legislature's \$5M capital appropriation for our research farms and forests - spanning over 13,000 acres across NYS in 2022-23. The funding is being utilized to establish a climate resilient research and demonstration farm at one of our Southern Tier research farms, install methane chambers at our research dairy in Cortland, and make critical field improvements at Cornell AgriTech. Cornell CALS would be grateful for an additional year of \$5M, to be utilized in our remote facilities in Long Island, Hudson Valley, Fredonia, AgriTech, and Ithaca to continue to make additional climate resiliency improvements to our lands and buildings.

Cornell CALS suggests the below program would be of value to the state's farm community, with a focus on increasing innovation, access, and entrepreneurship for new healthy local dairy products.

Dairy Entrepreneurship & Innovation Hub:

\$500,000 - facilitating dairy based product development, added value opportunities to grow markets for sustainable milk and dairy based products.

Respectfully, Cornell CALS suggests that maple and vegetable producers are facing increased challenges from changing climate conditions. Each program would benefit from additional funding to increase service to growers.



SUNY: Cornell Cooperative Extension

Restore to 23-24 levels of \$6,120,000 (\$1.7M restore)

Cornell County Cooperative Extension staff reached over 1.4M NYS residents this past year with education and outreach. 250,000 4-H youth across the state have been part of leadership, STEM, and food and environmental sciences activities designed to build life-long skills. CCE funds go straight to county based capacity. Cornell respectfully requests a restoration to last year's levels, including \$500k for NYC.

Climate: The CLCPA scoping plan relies on the sequestration of CO2 into trees and agricultural soil. In addition, farmland has been critical for large-scale solar energy production to reduce GHG emissions, which risks current and future food production.

CALS respectfully requests \$1M in funding restoration for the Center for AgriVoltaics research, facilitating smarter solar siting that is compatible with long-term food production and NYS food security.

EPF: Cornell CALS participates in the ADK's SCALE consortium - a long term data collection and analysis effort with multiple partners surveying ADK lakes to determine impacts of climate change on fisheries and ecosystem health. Cornell CALS respectfully requests a funding restoration & expansion to \$3M, and supports Executive Budget recommendations for various Cornell focused environmental stewardship efforts such as NYS IPM, Soil Health, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Climate & Applied Forestry Research Institute with SUNY ESF. We suggest restoration of the Zoos, Botanical Gardens category to \$20M.

Partner Support: Cornell CALS and CCE rely on many partners in improving food system sustainability. Cornell CALS is pleased to offer support for the NY Farm Viability Institute, AFT's Farmland for the Next Generation Program, NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, and various commodity programs like the ARDP, Wine and Grape Foundation, Hops, Cider, Brewery & Distillery promotion funds.