



**Department of
Agriculture and Markets**

Formal Budget Hearing

October 23, 2015

**Growing and Protecting New York's
Food System and Agricultural Economy**

Department's Mission

**To foster a competitive and safe
New York food and agricultural
industry for the benefit of
producers and consumers alike.**

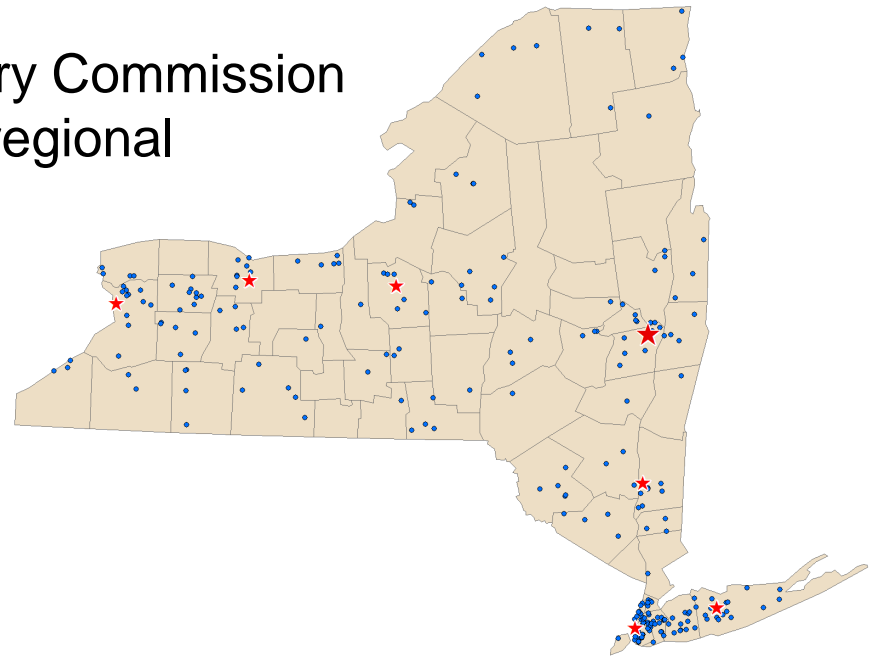
Importance of NYS Agriculture

- 35,000 farms in New York State
- More than 7 million acres of land
- In 2014, agriculture produced \$6.3 billion in economic activity; up from \$5.69 billion in 2013



Department Facts and Figures

- Established in 1884 as the Dairy Commission
- Headquartered in Albany with regional offices in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Brooklyn and Poughkeepsie
- Staffing level: 476
- More than half of our staff is based in the field



Department Budget

2015-16 Appropriations

State Operations

General Fund	\$ 33.8 m
Federal Funds	\$ 29.6 m
Enterprise	\$ 21.3 m
Market Orders	\$ 17.0 m
Other	\$ 18.5 m

Aid to Localities

General Fund	\$ 31.1 m
Federal Funds	\$ 20.0 m

Capital Projects

State Fair	\$ 5.5 m
EPF	\$ 34.5 m
Southern Tier Agricultural Industry	\$ 30.0 m
Hudson Valley Farmland Protection	\$ 20.0 m
State Fair Transformation	\$ 50.0 m



\$50 million for Agricultural Enhancement

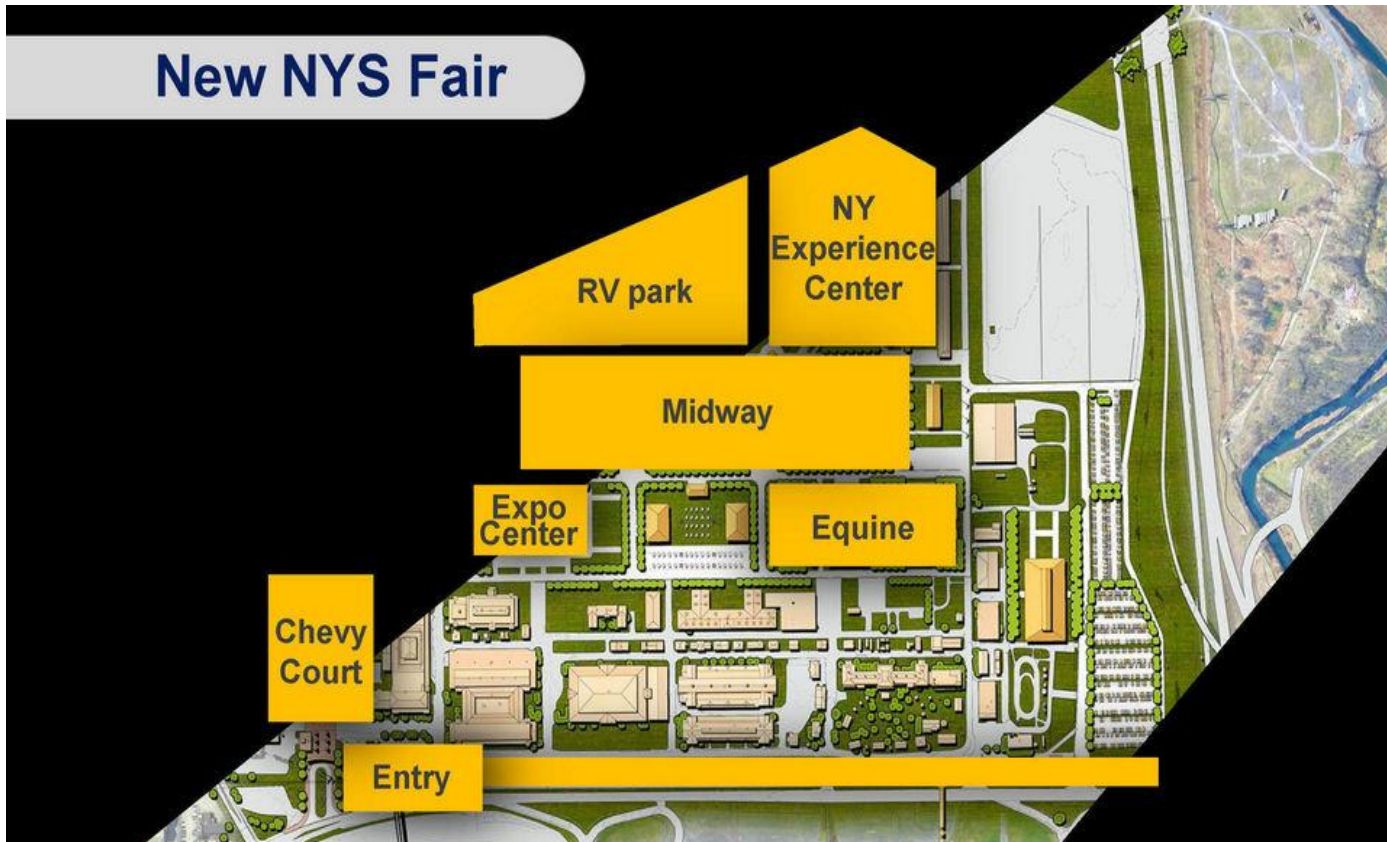
Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program

- Governor's initiative for maintaining and growing agricultural businesses.
- \$25 million to assist farm operators with implementing part(s) of an approved farm business or environmental plan that will increase farm production, enhance profitability or environmental compatibility of the farm operation.
- \$5 million for special projects to promote and advance the agriculture industry in the region.

Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement Program

- \$20 million to protect farmland in the Hudson Valley Region from development through perpetual conservation easements.

\$50 million for State Fairgrounds



Program Divisions

- Agricultural Development
- Animal Industry
- Food Laboratory
- Food Safety and Inspection
- Land and Water Resources
- Milk Control and Dairy Services
- Plant Industry
- New York State Fair
- Weights and Measures

Ensuring Food Safety

New York is a national leader in food safety.

Division of Food Safety and Inspection

- 45,400 food inspections and re-inspections in 2014
- Referred 4,412 penalty cases totaling \$2.9 million in fines
- Initiated 244 recalls of food products
- Farm Products Unit inspected more than 156 million pounds of food

Division of Milk Control and Dairy Services

- 6,000 dairy plants and bulk milk tank inspections for compliance with sanitary requirements
- Regulates and supervises the sanitary quality of all milk and cream distributed, consumed or sold within the State
- Must meet very rigorous national standards to ensure our milk can be shipped out of state



Growing the Dairy Industry

- Dairy industry is largest segment of State's agricultural industry
 - Accounts for one half of State's agricultural receipts
 - 4th in milk production - 13.7 billion pounds of milk
 - 4,950 dairy farms
 - 49 Grade A processing plants
 - 137 frozen dessert manufacturers
- Introduction of new products at other value-added processing facilities
- 63 new facilities opened in the last two years
- Yogurt production, especially Greek yogurt, continues to be an important product manufactured in NYS
- Responsible for all aspects of the State's dairy industry from cow to consumer to ensure plentiful production of safe and wholesome dairy products



New York State Food Laboratory

- Designed as a green building, the 70,000 square foot, three-story laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art testing instrumentation and biological and chemical containment systems to enhance its current food safety and agricultural product testing programs.
- Analyzes over 20,000 food and beverage samples each year for biological and chemical hazards and for compliance with state and federal regulations.
- In 2014, 244 recalls initiated. Of these, there were 31 class-1 recalls of food and/or beverages (those with imminent public health hazards).
- In 2014, received the Association of Public Health Laboratories award as the “Nation’s Healthiest Laboratory” in recognition for outstanding efforts to reduce collective environmental impact and promote health and wellness programs.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

Federal legislation enacted in early 2011

Sweeping reforms to food safety laws in 2015 and beyond

Proactive, rather than reactive

Creates seven new regulatory programs:

- Human food preventive controls
- Animal feed preventive controls
- Produce safety (on-farm)
- Protection from intentional adulteration (food defense)
- Sanitary transportation practices
- Foreign supplier verification program
- Third party accreditation

Animal Protection

- Division of Animal Industry is recognized by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as among the top state authorities to trace animal movements.
- Field veterinarians bring the NYS Cattle Health Assurance Program to approximately 800 New York dairy and beef producers, helping to improve animal health and well-being, farm viability, and food safety.
 - Approximately 40% of the milk produced on New York farms is produced by farms participating in this program.
- The NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Lab provides animal health testing services to veterinarians, animal health officials, and individual animal owners throughout New York, the Northeast, and several distant states. Lab receives well over 150,000 submissions, which result in over 1 million individual animal tests per year.
- From April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, more than 30,000 birds were sampled as part of avian influenza control and monitoring by staff animal health inspectors.
- Additional 5,000 environmental samples were collected from the bird markets and dealers and submitted for avian influenza testing.

Protecting Plants and Products

- 10,000 nursery and greenhouse inspections conducted each year
- More than 1,100 plant shipments for export to other states and countries inspected and certified as pest free
- Apiary inspectors certify over 35,000 honeybee colonies as free from foulbrood disease for shipments to other states
- Contains and eradicates pests – four current quarantines
- Statewide adoption of Integrated Pest Management practices
- Conducts additional inspections of seed, fertilizer and lime products
- Certifies fresh apples and sweet corn for shipment to western states



Protecting Natural Resources and Working Landscapes

New York's land and water resources are conserved through:

- farmland protection,
- farmland conservation, and
- proactive environmental stewardship on farms.

The Department also provides administrative support to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and 58 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Weights and Measures

- Regulate all weighing and/or measuring devices used in commercial transactions
- Scale testing: grocery stores, jewelry stores, feed/fertilizer
- Meter testing: gas pumps, fuel oil, propane
- Test petroleum quality: gasoline, diesel
- Metrology Lab: test mass, volume, length and time
- Packaging: net weight, net volume
- Fuel NY
- Provide testing services to police agencies throughout the State for axle weigh scales for enforcement of posted road weight limits

Promoting the Agricultural Community

Taste NY

Pride of New York

Cuisine Trails

Farm to School

International Trade/Export support

Access to Healthy Food





Taste NY events generate nearly \$5.2 million in sales annually:

- 166 events as of October 2015
- 12 retail stores including several in major transportation hubs
- Point-of-sale materials for liquor stores
- Taste NY sites in concession venues:
 - Times Union Center in Albany
 - Minor League Stadiums: Tri-City Valley Cats, Auburn Doubledays, Hudson Valley Renegades, and Batavia Muck Dogs

Farm-based Beverage Industry



- New York is nation's third largest wine-producing state.
- Numerous laws and regulatory changes have been enacted to facilitate industry growth.
- Wine, Beer, Spirits and Cider summits
- Since 2011:
 - wine licenses increased 67%
 - brewery licenses increased 436%
 - distillery licenses increased 400%
 - cidery licenses increased 600%

Access to Healthy Food

- Hundreds of farmers' markets operating in the growing months, offering a market venue for more than 1,000 New York farmers
- Winter markets are at an all-time high, extending the season
- FreshConnect checks support health foods for low-income families
- Specific nutrition programs at farmers' markets for seniors and for participants in the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program
- SNAP-EBT: Farmer's Market Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Farm-to-School Program
- WIC Vegetables and Fruits Checks Program

2015 Great New York State Fair

- Adds \$200 million in revenue to the local economy every year.
- Promotes the agricultural community.
- 2015 Fair broke attendance records at the Chevy Court and overall concert attendance.
- Overall attendance was 908,147 for the 12-day event.
- Sales from sponsorship surpassed \$2 million for the first time, an increase of about 4 percent over 2014.
- Attendance on upward trend over the past couple of years due to new promotional days and commemorative days.



Thank you!

