

Agriculture: Support Local Farms, Local People, Local Food

New York owes its roots to agriculture. Family farms and the industries they support are the backbone of our economy, putting food on our tables and adding new jobs across this great state. Our communities are truly fortunate to have such a large number of local, family-owned-and-operated farms.

It's no surprise that agriculture drives the economy of our communities and New York State. According to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, agriculture production yielded almost \$4.7 billion to the farming industry in 2010. New York leads the country in apples, onions, dairy, pumpkins, maple syrup and other products.

That is why supporting our local farmers is important. Although New York farms are leading producers, today's farmers are competing in a global food market. Supermarkets carry produce from other countries such as Mexico, Canada and Peru. Buying your produce locally at farmers' markets, farm stands or at a farm store will support our local farms, the economy and keep our agriculture industry healthy and strong.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative.

Very truly yours,



A S S E M B L Y M A N

WILL
BARCLAY

200 North Second Street
Fulton, NY 13069
(315) 598-5185
barclaw@assembly.state.ny.us

Albany Office:
521 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
(518) 455-5841

Buying Local - It Matters!

Typically, 45 cents of every dollar spent at a local grocer or small business is reinvested in the community. That's why shopping locally is such a great idea, particularly when produce is in season. Our local farms depend on this support and shopping directly at a farm stand or farmers' market cuts out the middle man and puts the profit in the hands of the farmers who grow our food. By shopping locally, you are investing in your community and supporting your friends and neighbors. Here are some local farmers' markets* and farm stands you can visit:

- **LACONA** – Corner of Maple Ave. and Harwood Dr., Thursdays from 4:30 to 7 p.m.
- **FULTON** – Canalview Park & Shop parking lot, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **OSWEGO** – West 1st St., Thursdays from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- **PULASKI** – South Park, Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m.
- **VOLNEY** – Volney Town Hall parking lot, 1445 Co. Rt. 6, Tuesdays from 5 to 8 p.m.
- **NEW HAVEN** – New Haven Town Hall, Mondays from 4 to 7 p.m.
- **CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL MARKET** – 2100 Park St. in Syracuse, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

* This list compiled by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

To get information on farm stand locations, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension.



buy

Agribusiness Report 2012

FROM ASSEMBLYMAN
WILL
BARCLAY



Pride of New York

The Pride of New York website is a great resource for finding locally grown produce, syrups, cheeses, honey, meats and other homegrown goods from across our state. Pride of New York has been a successful program for promoting our local products. I encourage you to learn more by visiting their website:



www.prideofny.com

Farm to School Program

The New York State Farm to School Program connects schools with local farms and food producers to strengthen local agriculture, improve student health and promote regional food-system awareness. Across our state, school districts are incorporating locally produced foods into their lunch menus and educating our students on the importance of our farms.

Locally, Oswego City School District, Hannibal Central School District, SUNY Oswego and other schools are working with area businesses to get local fruits and vegetables from the farm to the cafeteria. Apples, plums, pears, salt potatoes and cabbages are just some of the locally grown products showing up on lunch trays. The next time you look at a school lunch menu, there's a good chance local fruits and vegetables will be served.

Through curriculum such as Ag in the Classroom and field trips to local farms and farmers' markets, school districts are promoting farming, student health and the next generation of farming in our community.



Guide to Farm Fresh Products

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets provides an online guide for residents to find local farms and products. Whether it is at a roadside stand, market or the farm itself, this guide is a useful tool for anyone seeking fresh produce. For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/farmfreshny>.

I Love NY Agriculture Contest

The New York State Department of Agriculture is sponsoring an art and writing contest for children ranging from pre-K through sixth grade. This contest is an opportunity for young people to learn more about agriculture and the food system while exploring their creativity. The contest is divided by grade-level categories and there are many awards for the winners. The deadline to participate in this event is Friday, April 12, 2013. For information on requirements and guidelines, please visit <http://bit.ly/AgContest>.

I ♥ NY FARMS



A S S E M B L Y M A N

^{WILL}
BARCLAY



If you have questions regarding this or any other legislative concern, contact me by mail at 200 North Second St., Fulton, NY 13069, by e-mail at barclaw@assembly.state.ny.us or by phone at 315-598-5185.