



Dear Neighbors,

Farm tour season is in full swing here in Upstate New York! It has been my honor and great joy to pull on my muck boots and get out into the fields with colleagues over the past few weeks to hear from local farmers and gain some firsthand experience of their operations. I grew up on a dirt road in Trumansburg and it is always such a treat to get back out to the familiar sights and smells of my childhood. Scroll down for a few highlights from my recent visits! First, some important news and community resources:

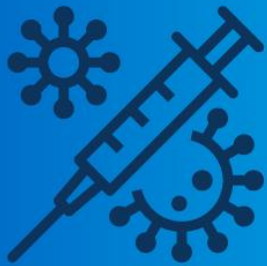


In-Home Vaccinations for Homebound New Yorkers

New York State is partnering with counties to provide in-home vaccinations for those who can't travel to a vaccine provider for medical or nonmedical reasons. To find a provider near you, visit:

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/distribution-vaccine#in-home-vaccination>

Do you know someone who wants to get vaccinated, but can't get to a vaccine provider?



**In-Home Vaccination is available
for homebound New Yorkers**



Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP)

Help for small landlords is here! Applications are now being accepted for the **Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP)**, which provides rental assistance for landlords whose tenants are unwilling to apply for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), including where the tenant has left the rental property. To learn more about eligibility or the application process, visit: www.otda.ny.gov/programs/landlord-rental-assistance or call my office.

The Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP)

is now accepting applications!

The program provides landlords with up to 12 months of rental arrears payments. Landlords may be eligible for this state funding if they have tenants who did not apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).



COVID-19 Relief: Small Business Assistance

The [COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#), which provides assistance for small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations who experience a COVID-related financial hardship **has recently been updated to expand eligibility**. Passed as part of this year's state budget, the \$800 million program is still open and accepting applications.

Eligible uses of grant funds include business costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and April 1, 2021, such as payroll, rent, mortgage, property and school taxes, insurance, utilities and pandemic-related expenditures that were necessary to protect workers and customers.

Expanded Eligibility:

- The revenue threshold for businesses was increased from \$500,000 to **\$2.5 million**
- Businesses that received up to **\$250,000 in federal PPP loans** are now eligible - the previous threshold was \$100,000



COVID-19 RELIEF: *Small Business Assistance*

The COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program has recently been expanded.

Small businesses with revenues up to \$2.5 million and those that received up to \$250,000 in federal PPP loans and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations can apply for grants to cover COVID-related expenses.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

<https://esd.ny.gov/pandemic-small-business-recovery-grant-program>



Cortland County Legislative Farm Tour

On Sunday, September 25, I was thrilled to join my colleagues in Cortland for a farm tour organized by [Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County](#) and [Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District](#). What a gorgeous day! We visited New Hope Dairy Farm in Homer, Cobblestone Valley Farm in Preble, Catalpa Flower Farm in Homer, Villnave Family Farm in Little York, and ended the day with a farm-sourced lunch at Anderson's Farm Market in Little York. You can read more about our tour [here](#) and also [here](#), with thanks to Valerie Puma from the Cortland Standard for digging into biochar technology with me!





Visit to Paul Fouts's Dairy Farm in Cortland

A few weeks ago, I had the great pleasure of meeting Paul Fouts and touring his dairy farm in Cortland. Founded in 1937 with 8 cows, Fouts Farm is a three-generation operation currently counting 600 head of Holsteins. My thanks to Paul and his father for giving me a tour and discussing some of the challenges facing dairy farmers in New York.



Food, Water and Climate Farm Tour

This week, I traveled out to Delaware and Otsego County to join colleagues for a farm tour focused on sustainable agriculture practices and organized by Jim Barber and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Thanks to Gene Marra for showing me how to punch down the barley in the fermenter during our visit to the Cooperstown Distillery.



Central New York Farm Bureau

Finally, I was thrilled to join the Central New York Farm Bureau on Tuesday night at Homer Hops to discuss their legislative priorities and to learn about their work to support agriculture here in the district.



Wishing you all a restful and restorative holiday weekend.

In good health,

Anna R. Kelles

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