



Northern New York Agricultural Development Program News
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State Grants \$600,000 for Northern New York Agricultural Research

Northern New York – The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has received \$600,000 in the 2015-16 New York State Budget to support research and technical assistance that enhances the sustainability and profitability of farm businesses in the state's six northernmost counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence.

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Co-Chairs Jon Greenwood, Joe Giroux, and Jon Rulfs acknowledged the leadership of New York State Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Patty Ritchie, Senator Betty Little, and Senator Joe Griffo as well as New York State Assembly Agriculture Chair Bill Magee, other North Country representatives and legislators on the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees for securing the funding.

"The State budget support of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program encourages growth and innovation in the regional farming industry with benefits not only here but statewide, from production efficiencies and cost saving practices to enhanced animal health and environmental stewardship," said **Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Co-Chair Jon Greenwood**, a dairy farmer in St. Lawrence County.

"Our Northern New York legislators have a strong understanding of how the research and technical assistance of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program supports the sustainability and advancement of the diverse regional farm sectors that feed our local and state economies," said **Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Co-Chair Joe Giroux**, a dairy farmer in Clinton County.

"Thanks to go to our North Country legislative leaders for the 2015-16 State Budget funding of the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program. That funding will be converted into practical, real-world efficiencies that help regional farmers produce high-yield, high-quality crops, livestock and value-added products," said **NNYADP Co-Chair Jon Rulfs**, a dairy farmer and fruit grower in Clinton County.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed growth in Northern New York agricultural industry with total farm product sales valued at more than \$750 million, a 12.2 percent in

land in farming, and a farm worker payroll that nearly doubled to \$67.1 million over 2007 figures.

“Farming is our state’s leading industry, however, in Northern New York, it’s much more than that—it’s a way of life, passed down from generation to generation, and a major driver of our rural economies,” said **Senator Patty Ritchie, Chair of the New York State Senate Agriculture Committee**. “That’s why I worked so hard this year to secure record funding for agriculture and restore budget cuts to the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program. This support will be tremendously important in helping farmers here in the North Country to increase efficiency, expand their businesses and boost their bottom lines.”

“This year’s budget includes good news for agriculture,” said **Senator Betty Little**. “Senator Patty Ritchie, who chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee, is a great advocate for farmers and I am pleased to work closely with her to win support for budget funding to strengthen the industry and help our upstate economy. The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program is farmer-driven. It does great work and will no doubt make great use of this state assistance in the year ahead.”

“Every meal we may eat can serve as a reminder of the vital role New York farmers and the agriculture industry continue to play in the sustenance of our state and nation,” state **Senator Joseph Griffo** said. “When farmers can make the most of their land, crops and livestock as efficiently and as cost-effective as possible, then the farming sector is better for it and we all benefit. This funding will help develop better ways to enhance, expand and sustain our state’s farm-based businesses.”

“The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program provides essential support for research and technical assistance to our Northern farm businesses, serving agriculturists who manage 1.11 million acres of farmland in the North Country, and I am pleased that we were able to include funding for this much needed and utilized program in the 2015-16 New York State Agriculture budget,” said **NYS Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair Assemblyman Bill Magee**.

More than 130 farmers participate as committee members with the farmer-driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program. Research and technical assistance trials are conducted on farms throughout the six-county region.

The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has 27 research projects underway in 2015 focused on:

- dairy, livestock and field crop production
- agricultural environmental stewardship
- continuing the alfalfa snout beetle control project success with selective breeding of beetle-resistant alfalfa varieties and extension of the beetle control protocol to more NNY farms
- engaging younger farmers
- crop and livestock pest and disease mapping and control
- birch syrup production as a niche opportunity for NNY maple producers
- NNY fruit and vegetable production, including cold-hardy grapes, apples, and juneberry, and
- exploring the potential for edamame production in NNY.

An economic impact report on the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program 2014 projects, a complete list of 2015 NNYADP projects, research reports, and event notices are online at www.nnyagdev.org.