

## A G E N D A

September 20, 2010 5:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken. PRESENT – Patricia Southworth, Alan Grattidge, Anita Daly, Richard Lucia, Mary Ann Johnson, Jean Raymond, George J. Hargrave, Richard Rowland, Arthur M. Wright, Mindy Wormuth, Paul Sausville, Preston L. Jenkins, Jr., John Collyer, Thomas N. Wood, III, Matthew E. Veitch, Joanne Dittes Yepsen, Edward D. Kinowski, John Lawler, Arthur J. Johnson – 19. ABSENT - Philip C. Barrett, Willard H. Peck, Thomas Richardson, Frank Thompson – 4.

On a motion by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Lucia, the minutes of the meeting of August 11, 2010 were approved unanimously.

David Wickerham, County Administrator, reviewed the following Agenda items:

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Authorizing the Chairman to accept a \$286,733 Homeland Security Grant to purchase equipment and training and amending the 2010 budget in relation thereto. (Ed Tremblay, Fire Coordinator)

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with RS Telecom to perform maintenance on the County's 6.7 GHz microwave system at a cost of \$24,000 the first year and \$26,000 the second year effective October 1, 2010. (Paul Lent, Emergency Services Director)

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Granting utility easements to Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation and Verizon New York Inc. for power and communication equipment for the Town of Ballston water pump station. (Jason Kemper, Planning Director)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into agreements to accept \$89,000 in snowmobile funding. (Jason Kemper, Planning Director)

Mr. Wickerham said we expect to receive between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Cooperative Extension to manage the MS4 Storm Water Management Program at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. (Jason Kemper, Planning Director)

Authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with the Saratoga Hilton for the annual Planning Conference at a cost not to exceed \$32,000. (Jason Kemper, Planning Director)

**LAW AND FINANCE**

Transferring \$149,393 from the Contingency Account to cover actual 2010 debt service payments for the Animal Shelter and the Emergency Radio System. (Sam Pitcherelle, County Treasurer)

Mr. Wickerham stated this will reduce our Contingency Account to \$76,427.

Declaring an emergency at the Sewer District and authorizing the Chairman to enter into a contract with Troy Motor Service to provide a rental generator and rebuild the water pump at a cost of \$10,850. (Jim DiPasquale, Sewer District Director)

Mrs. Johnson announced that the Veterans' Concert will be Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at SPAC. Volunteers are still needed, and she requested anyone who wants to volunteer to let Jennifer Ciulla know by tomorrow. If any Supervisor has served in the military and/or if reserved seats are needed, please let Jennifer know that as well, she said.

On a motion by Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann

REGULAR SESSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010  
AT 4:00 P.M., D.S.T.

Board called to order by Chairman Peck.

Roll call was taken. PRESENT – Patricia Southworth, Alan Grattidge, Philip C. Barrett, Anita Daly, Richard Lucia, Mary Ann Johnson, Jean Raymond, George J. Hargrave, Richard Rowland, Arthur M. Wright, Mindy Wormuth, Paul Sausville, Frank Thompson, Preston L. Jenkins, Jr., Willard H. Peck, John Collyer, Thomas N. Wood, III, Matthew E. Veitch, Joanne Dittes Yepsen, Edward D. Kinowski, John Lawler, Arthur J. Johnson – 22. ABSENT - Thomas Richardson – 1.

The invocation was given by Tom Wood, Chaplain.

On a motion by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Ms. Wormuth, the minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2010 were approved unanimously.

2009 PROCEEDINGS DEDICATION

Arthur Johnson, 2009 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, stated the following:

“I want to thank Barbara, Elaine, Jen, Chris, Pam and Diane in Printing for their work on the Proceedings Book. It is the first year in color, and it came out great. The pictures bring back a lot of fond memories of my year as Chairman.

“A few months ago, Jen Ciulla told me that she was working on the 2009 Proceedings Book and asked who I would be dedicating it to. I asked Jen what the criteria was, and she said that there is no set criteria but suggested that it could be someone or group that helped you personally or that has made a significant impact or contribution to the town. Immediately, two individuals came to mind who just happened to be my longtime friends as well. They were Mike Dennis and Senator Roy McDonald.

“I am not sure I should be thanking Roy and Mike for this, but they were responsible for getting me involved in Wilton politics. Back in 1980, they over served me drinks one evening at McGregor Country Club and convinced me to run for the position of Town Assessor. Probably the worst job in town government. Over the years, Roy and Mike served as mentors, and I relied on them for advice and guidance.

“Mike has been part of the Wilton community for over 40 years. He is the owner of McGregor Links Country Club and was the first large scale land developer in Wilton. He had the foresight to recognize the residential and commercial development potential in Wilton. Mike began with single family residential projects and then diversified into apartments, town homes and office parks. Because of his success, others followed which led to the transformation of Wilton from a small rural town into being one of the fastest growing towns in the State. Mike was also a community leader. You could always count on Mike to give back to the town. He financially supported youth sports and recreation, a variety of not-for-profits, and donated land to our emergency services providers. Mike is on the Board of Directors of Adirondack Trust Co. and SUNY Adirondack and is actively involved with the Alzheimer’s Association of NENY. He was also a Commissioner on the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation. Mike has played an important role in Saratoga County. He was Chairman of the Saratoga County Sewer Commission and currently is Chairman of the Board of SEDC. Thank you Mike for all you have done for Wilton and Saratoga County.

“Senator Roy McDonald is not only my friend but a friend of everyone in this room. Roy began his political career in Wilton and served as Supervisor for 23 years before moving on to the State Assembly and now the State Senate. Roy had a clear vision for Wilton, and he developed the first comprehensive plan to carry out that vision. It was Roy’s plan for growth that allowed him to eliminate property taxes and begin our history of 28 years with a town tax. That plan for the most part is still being followed today. When Roy makes up his mind to do something, he will not be denied. Roy was determined to make Exit 15 into a retail destination area. It all began with the old Saratoga Mall, then came the Wilton Mall, and all the other stores followed. Now all of us appreciate and benefit from the sales tax generated from Exit 15.

“Roy has always been a leader in economic development initiatives and job creation. Roy was responsible for attracting both the Ace Hardware and Target Distribution Centers to the Exit 16 area. His efforts created more than 2000 jobs for the area.

“As the town was seeing unprecedented growth, Roy recognized the need to balance that growth with preserving open space. This was before open space and green infrastructure became the trendy thing to do. In 1996, Roy had the idea of creating the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park. This was the first time that I had doubts about one of Roy’s ideas. But, he proved me wrong. The Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park now has thousands of acres of protected lands, miles of trails for recreation opportunities and provides a variety of educational programs for school children.

“Roy was Chairman of this Board of Supervisors in 1986. He always worked together with the other Supervisors to make sure that Saratoga County was the lowest taxed and most well-run county in New York State. Roy, thank you for making Wilton a great place to live and your dedication to Saratoga County.

“I am grateful to Roy and Mike for their friendship and guidance though the years. I am honored and proud to dedicate the 2009 Proceedings Book to Senator Roy McDonald and Michael Dennis.”

Senator McDonald said it is such an honor to be recognized by such a great man.

Mr. Dennis said he is very taken by this. We have been friends for many years, and it has been a real pleasure, he said. He introduced his wife, Jeannie. He stated they believe in giving back to the community. He said Jeannie has been involved with Hospice and is the Chairman of the Board for the Saratoga Center for the Family.

Chairman Peck said Wilton has shown great foresight over the years, which is a benefit to Saratoga County, and he thanked each of them.

Mr. Lucia stated the County lands auction will be held at 6:00 p.m. tonight in Building #5 with about 12 properties.

Mr. Grattidge said the recent NYSAC Fall Seminar was held in Buffalo this past week. A delegation of Supervisors attended, and we had a good representation with Supervisors Johnson, Wood, Raymond, Daly, Wormuth, Veitch, Southworth and myself, and a guest appearance from Supervisor Lawler, he said. The work of the Association over that three days included working on 35 resolutions that came out of various standing committees, and I will pass that on to the Clerk of the Board, he said. He distributed copies of NYSAC’s Blue Ribbon Task Force On The Future Of Farming In New York State, which was accepted by the Association and talks about critical issues facing farming today in New York State, and a lot of these issues we are dealing with in Saratoga County as well. He said this document will be forwarded to candidates of the upcoming election to lay out a road map of some of concerns of Upstate on agricultural issues. If anyone has comments on this, the Task Force will continue to meet, so just let me know. He said he would like this Report included in the Proceedings of this body. He thanked Erie County for hosting the convention and Wyoming County for the Presidents’ Dinner. He thanked NYSAC for holding these conferences on the importance issues.

Ms. Raymond mentioned Mr. Grattidge neglected to mention he is a Statewide member of that Task Force. The Chairman of that Task Force commented on what a hard worker Mr. Grattidge was on that committee and how well he was thought of, she said. Chairman Peck mentioned Mr. Grattidge has been a champion of agriculture in this County and his Town of Charlton.

Mr. Lawler clarified he was at the Conference representing his employer at the expense of his employer. He said he appreciates Mr. Grattidge mentioning his presence.



**NYSAC**  
NEW YORK STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



**Farming Task Force**



**NYSAC BLUE RIBBON  
TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF  
FARMING IN NEW YORK STATE**

Thomas J. Santulli • President  
A. Douglas Berwanger • Chairman  
Stephen J. Acquario • Executive Director

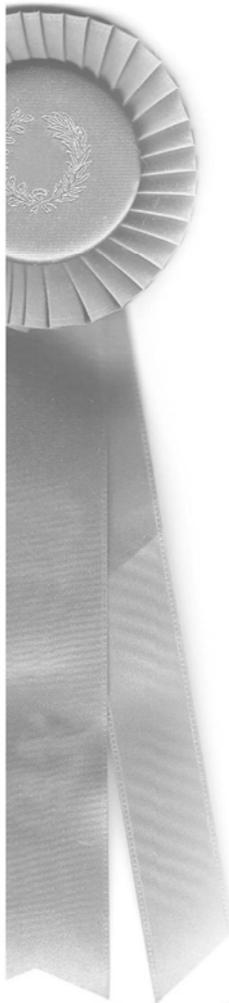
September 2010

NYSAC  
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Albany, New York 12207  
[www.nysac.org](http://www.nysac.org)

# BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF FARMING IN NEW YORK STATE



## Members



- Hon. Crystal Abers  
Cattaraugus County
- Hon. Kathie Arnold  
Cortland County
- Hon. John Becker  
Madison County
- Hon. A. Douglas Berwanger  
Wyoming County
- Hon. Patrick Brennan  
Oneida County
- Hon. James Brick  
Wyoming County
- Hon. Barbara Brown  
Oswego County
- Albert Buckbee III  
Orange County
- Hon. Samuel Casella  
Ontario County
- Hon. John Champlin  
Ontario County
- Hon. Lucinda Collier  
Wayne County
- Hon. Richard Decker  
Chenango County
- Hon. Timothy Dennis  
Yates County
- Hon. Greg Edwards  
Chautauqua County
- Hon. James Eisel  
Delaware County
- Angela L. Ellis  
Livingston County
- Hon. Joseph Gozelski  
Wyoming County
- Hon. Alan Grattidge  
Saratoga County
- Hon. Mary Pat Hancock  
Genesee County
- Hon. Michael Hein  
Ulster County

- Hon. Stephen Herz  
Broome County
- Hon. Ted Hopkins  
Allegany County
- Hon. Stephen Keblish  
Herkimer County
- Hon. Esther Leadley  
Genesee County
- Hon. Steve Levy  
Suffolk County
- Mr. Jay Matteson  
Jefferson County
- Hon. Lucille McKnight  
Albany County
- Hon. Frederick Morrill  
St. Lawrence County
- Hon. Robert Nichols  
Steuben County
- Hon. Bernard Peplinski, Sr  
Herkimer County
- Hon. William Ross  
Niagara County
- Hon. Thomas Ryan  
Stueben County
- Hon. John Salka  
Madison County
- Hon. Suzanne Sinclair  
Seneca County
- Hon. Mark Schuster  
Livingston County
- Hon. Michael A. Tabolt  
Lewis County
- Hon. Amy Tresidder  
Oswego County
- Hon. Terry Wilbur  
Oswego County
- Christian Yunker  
Genesee County

## NYSAC Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Future of Farming

### SOWING THE SEEDS

The agriculture industry remains a top contributor to the New York State economy, providing critical jobs, revenues and food for the state and beyond. This industry is worth saving for our generation and for those that follow.

Unfortunately public policy decisions of the last few decades have put the long-term economic viability of our farms at risk. In response, New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) President Thomas J. Santulli, in February 2010 the Chemung County Executive, created the NYSAC Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Future of Farming in New York State. The Task Force has been charged with looking at the challenges facing our farms from the county perspective.

The Task Force asked themselves the simple question: "What can we do, as county leaders, to support the future of farming in our communities?"

This report begins to answer that question. It is not the "end all and be all" for agriculture policy in New York State, but it is a beginning of the discussion from the county point of view. The Task Force tackled some of the difficult challenges facing the agriculture industry including farmland preservation, environmental policies, dairy pricing and marketing.

Some of the issues that this report does not address include fruit and vegetable production and processing, meat processing, breeding farms and the link between game farms and the agriculture industry. The Task Force will take up these topics in the future.

#### New York's Dairy Industry in Crisis

"New York's Dairy farms are a vital part of the State economy. In 2007, New York's dairy farms generated \$2.3 billion in revenue, supporting more than 20,000 farmers and employees as well as many local businesses that supply or provide services to dairy farms. Like most small businesses, dairy farms have been hit particularly hard in this recession, largely as a result of low milk prices."

Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli,  
NYS Comptroller, March 2010

### TENDING THE FIELDS

On March 15, 2010, the NYSAC Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Future of Farming in New York State convened to discuss agriculture in New York State. Task Force members focused the discussion on four priority areas: Protecting Farmland for Future Generations, Access to Nutritious Foods, Protecting Soil and the Environment and Strengthening the Farm Economy and Milk Pricing. Task Force members were then asked to recommend short-term, intermediate-term, long-term priorities that should be advocated for in the State legislative process and then analyzed for broader state-wide, long-term recommendations.

### IMMEDIATE NYSAC ADVOCACY

In terms of short-term advocacy efforts, the Task Force recommended:

- Restoration of funding for the NYS Department of Ag & Markets local assistance programs (Appendix A, page 11),
- Restorations to the Environmental Protection Fund (Appendix A, page 11), and
- Strong opposition to the Farm Labor Fair Practices Act (Appendix B, page 12)

The 2010-11 State Budget cut funding for nearly all agriculture local assistance programs. Among the most severe cuts was \$2.84 million cut from the Farm Viability Institute (FVI) and 226,000 from the Center for Dairy Excellence, which will be administered by a grant program through the Department of Agriculture and Markets, not through FVI as in previous years. Other program funding was swept entirely, including Northern NY Agricultural Development, Maple Producers Association, NYS Wine Marketing and Promotion, and funding for the Organic Farming Program. (Appendix A, page 11).

In terms of the Farm Labor Bill, we are pleased to report, working along side New York Farm Bureau, the original Farm Labor Fair Practices Act was never allowed out of Committee, thus preventing

a full vote in the NYS Senate. The Senate did take up a similar bill during an extraordinary session on August 3, 2010. The house voted down S.8223 (Espada) by a vote of 28 ayes to 31 nays. This bill would have extended many of the same provisions to farm workers as the Farm Labor Fair Practices Act and would have inflicted debilitating harm on farms and farm owners. This was a close vote in the Senate and the issue will continue to be on the legislative agendas for some in the State Capitol. NYSAC continues to monitor this matter and will work with the Farm Bureau and other organizations in support of the future of farming in New York.

## ONGOING NYSAC ADVOCACY

With respect to "intermediate and long-term" goals, the four priority areas have been consolidated into two as a way to more effectively communicate and succinctly advocate the county position as it relates to matters important to New York's farming communities. In this consolidation, all prior contributions and suggestions of the task force have been included.

For the purposes of NYSAC's ongoing efforts, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Farming will focus first on developing policy as it relates to Strengthening the Farm Economy, and second, on Protecting Farmland for Future Generations. Having a profitable farm sector will enable farmland protection and generational transfer or succession.

Within New York's diverse agricultural economy, farms will evolve generally in two directions. Some will expand in size, hoping to stay efficient and remain a low cost producer of a commodity. Other farmers will adopt a business model that allows them to earn a greater share of consumers' dollars. These farms will likely participate in direct-marketing or value-added opportunities. The work of this Task Force is therefore farm-size neutral and focuses on overall farm profitability. If NYSAC is successful in this effort, the agricultural industry will receive a significant complement to their public policy efforts and substantially enhance their overall success in achieving their objectives.

## STRENGTHENING THE FARM ECONOMY

When we begin to consider strengthening New York's farm economy, the dairy industry rises to the top. New York State ranks 3rd nationally in dairy production (behind California and Wisconsin) and the dairy industry represents nearly two-thirds of all agricultural gross receipts.

### Fast Facts: NY DAIRY PRODUCTS

"Milk is New York's leading agricultural product and is produced all across the state. Milk sales account for one-half of total agricultural receipts. Production in 2005 was 11.7 billion pounds with a preliminary value of \$1.91 billion."

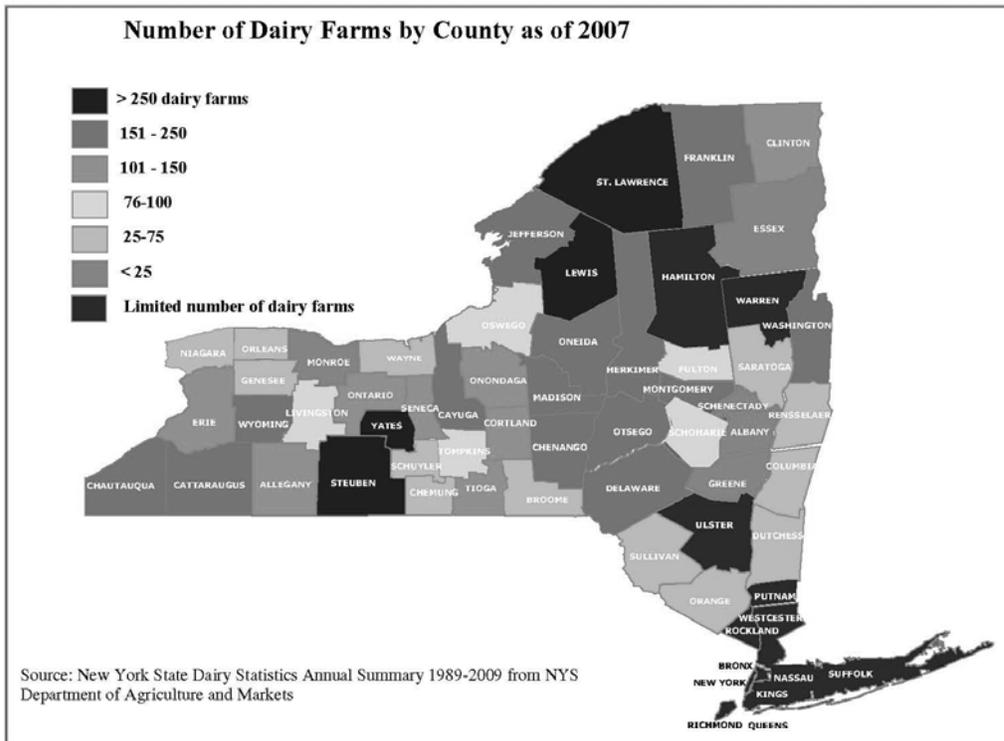
Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli,  
NYS Comptroller, March 2010

## FEDERAL FARM ACTION NEEDED NOW

Across the state, meetings have taken place over the last 18 months as dairy farmers have incurred staggering losses in their businesses and on their balance sheets, including roundtable discussion and a meeting on March 29, 2010 at Genesee Community College, hosted by US Senator Charles Schumer and US Department of Justice Officials. These meetings have resulted in the development of several key issues: price discovery, market transparency and overall federal milk market order reform. Three sections of the 2008 Farm Bill address these specific dairy policy issues: Sections 1510, 1509 and 1507.

## ENFORCE THE 2008 U.S. FARM BILL

1. Revisions to Section 1510 would require mandatory reporting to USDA by any milk processor who receives more than 500,000 lbs. of milk daily. Further, milk-handlers would be required to report actual production and inventory of processed products on a daily basis rather than a weekly basis which is currently required. Additionally, the frequency of USDA audits would increase from an annual occurrence to quarterly. These measures would provide USDA with a much more accurate accounting of the



true “supply and demand” for all dairy products in this country. This proposal would also allow USDA to become less reliant on the “thinly traded” Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), in their analysis of the value of milk products.

2. Enforce Section 1509 of the 2008 Farm Bill which requires the USDA to establish a Review Commission on Federal Milk Marketing Orders. The Congressional intent for this commission was to consider reducing the number of milk categories or “classes” from four to two. Essentially, Class I would represent the price paid for fluid milk and Class II would be the price paid for all other manufactured dairy products. The intent behind this proposal is to ensure competitiveness and transparency in dairy pricing and competitiveness for dairy products, both domestically and worldwide.
3. Enforce Section 1507 of the 2008 Farm Bill which adds an assessment of 7.5 cents per hundredweight (cwt) on imported dairy products.

Recognize this amount is half of what U.S. dairy producers pay (\$.15). Many importers and International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) contend the reporting requirement in this law used to evaluate the milk equivalent for the assessment is onerous and unfair. The U.S. dairy industry contends “fairness” is an issue, as well as they are paying for market promotion and advertisement (ie. Got Milk!) for all dairy products sold in the U.S., including imported products. The USDA rule to administer this program is currently being disputed at the World Trade Organization; the U.S. Trade Representative is representing the U.S. dairy industry perspective.

**STRENGTHEN THE US FARM BILL**

There are other dairy policy measures that should be considered in the development of the 2012 Farm Bill. One recommendation is the expansion of daily-electronic reporting for additional dairy products. Currently USDA only requires reporting for butter,

cheddar cheese, non-fat dry milk and whey. The U.S. dairy industry contends these four commodities represent too small a sample and may not reflect broad supply and demand conditions. Therefore, the NYSAC Blue Ribbon Task Force recommends removing the Dairy Price Support Program as a way to encourage innovation with our milk processors, developing products such as milk protein concentrates (MPC), a product the worldwide market and domestic food and beverage manufacturers truly desire. Lastly, supporting the establishment of a two-class system to price milk would address alignment issues for food and beverage makers and move milk to the highest value use, and significantly improving market transparency.

These policy recommendations would be advocated here in New York State with our individual members of Congress, and also at the federal level with the National Association of Counties (NACo). Like NYSAC, NACo has an agriculture and rural development committee structure.

**NEW YORK STATE NEEDS TO LEAD THE WAY**

With regard to state specific efforts, reduced funding for dairy industry support infrastructure is harmful. The Task Force recommends the full restoration of funding for programs such as the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI), which is the mechanism through which all research and development is funded; and the Center for Dairy Excellence (CDE), which coordinates consulting expertise for individual farmers. A full list of these programs of importance to farms and of concern for this Task Force is listed in Appendix ...

**REGIONAL WELL BEING**

The Task Force also supports a regional effort designed to nurture the growth and profitability of the dairy industry in the Northeast. The Northeast Dairy Leadership Team is a three-state coalition of organizations and state governments focused on enhancing the profitability of the dairy industry throughout the Northeastern United States.

**GROW FARM TO MARKET PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO NY FOOD**

A growing number of farmers have embraced direct marketing as a way to earn a larger share of the consumer dollar. A number of direct marketing opportunities exist throughout New York and are found through traditional farmer's markets, regional markets, wholesale markets and direct delivery to food service institutions, and the Green Market Program in New York City. Direct marketing provides farmers a higher return per unit of product sold because they are providing more services, such as bringing fresh produce to consumers' communities, than those who rely on other businesses to perform those functions. Additionally, direct-marketing provides the forum for consumers and farmers to communicate directly, thereby establishing a personal relationship over a personal issue such as food. The Task Force supports the continued development of direct marketing programs and infrastructure. Specifically, we recommend support for the Farmers Market Grant Program that provides funds for infrastructure development of farmers markets throughout the state. In addition, we recommend strong support for the redevelopment of Hunts Point Terminal Market which offers an invaluable service of supplying the metro NYC region with fresh produce, including produce from New York farms.

**FAST FACTS:  
NEW YORK VEGETABLE PRODUCTION**

The value of vegetables in 2005 totaled \$461 million. Fresh market vegetables rank 6th and processing vegetables are 7th among the states. Leading crops in New York are cabbage, sweet corn and onions.\*

Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli,  
NYS Comptroller, March 2010

Other value-added opportunities include various steps of processing raw commodities into popular consumer products. Examples include: cheeses and other dairy products, wines, jellies, jams, maple syrup, apple sauce, cider, and juices, steaks and other meat products. This range of value-added products requires investment of infrastructure necessary for food product processing and therefore creates an opportunity for public economic development dollars to assist in the support of such facilities.