



**2015 Empire Farm Days: August 11-13**  
**Rodman Lott and Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY**  
**Show Manager Melanie Wickham**  
**877-697-7837, [mwickham@empirefarmdays.com](mailto:mwickham@empirefarmdays.com)**

**PRESS RELEASE: 2015 June 8**

**Don't Be Left Behind: Visit Empire Farm Days, the Northeast's Largest Outdoor Ag Show August 11-13, 2015**

"Nobody wants to get left behind, so everybody is here" is the theme for the 2015 Empire Farm Days, the largest outdoor agricultural show in the Northeastern U.S. The 300-acre agricultural extravaganza held at the Rodman Lott and Son Farms in Seneca Falls, NY, presents the perfect mix of exhibits, seminars, and demonstrations on the latest innovations, technology and best practices to help farmers with operations of all sizes and interests stay competitive, efficient and profitable.

Empire Farm Days draws everyone from dairy producers and cattle ranchers to cash croppers, equipment operators, horse owners, farm families, and rural life enthusiasts. Entry is just \$10 per vehicle for parking.

**Dairy Profit Seminars Always Popular, Dancing Digger New**

The Dairy Profit Seminars at the show are a regular stop for dairymen and agribusiness professionals. The 2015 lineup focuses on the economic impact of milk quality, planning to successfully reinvest in a dairy operation or transition to the next generation, feed additives, and using income over feed costs.

Three of New York State's 25-year Supermilk winners will offer a panel discussion on Tuesday. Twenty-nine NY Junior DAIRY LEADERS from 17 counties graduate on Wednesday at the show.

The dairy industry is in the Farm Bureau Family Education Center spotlight with the Wheel of Agriculture, feel boxes, and info exhibits. The Farm Bureau Youth, Young Farmer, and Collegiate area offers news on events, programs and award opportunities for the future generations of agriculture.

The field demonstrations of working farm equipment tilling, mowing, raking, baling and processing hay, and chopping and handling forage always draw a crowd. If you have ever wondered if an 8-ton backhoe loader can dance, check out the JCB Dancing Digger precision performance set to music.

**Hear Soil Test Inventor at New Soil Health Seminar Center**

The new Soil Health Seminar Center at Empire Farm Days will feature two speakers and a farmer panel, different each day. Presenters include soil health testing innovator Will Brinton, founder of Woods End Soil Laboratory, Mt. Vernon, Maine; and representatives from the Cornell University PRO-DAIRY Program, Western New York Crop Management Association, Seedway, and Kings Agriseeds.

Field demonstrations include cover crop plots established by Seedway and Kings Agriseeds. In addition, the USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center in cooperation with Rodman Lott and Son Farms will have an innovative companion seeding of Dutch white clover and dwarf perennial ryegrass in soybeans using herbicides to stunt the cover crops until canopy closure.

“This new Soil Health Center at Empire Farm Days is a great new resource for farmers interested in how they can improve their soil to enhance crop production, water quality, and resilience to extreme weather events,” says USDA NRCS Plant Materials Specialist Paul Salon.

### **Manure Pit Simulator from Iowa at Show**

Also new for 2015 is a visit by the Confined Space Manure Pit Simulator from the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) of Peosta, Iowa. NECAS Director Dan Neenan will be offering 20-minute safety education demonstrations every hour throughout the three-day event in partnership with the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health.

“On-farm equipment poses a risk for injury or death not only to farmers but to those who respond to accidents on the farm. This training saves lives,” Neenan says.

### **Learn New Apple and Grape Grafting Techniques**

Apple and grape growers can talk with scientists from the Agricultural Research Service Plant Genetic Resources Unit in Geneva, NY, and see them daily demonstrating grafting techniques used with apple trees and grapevines. Learn how rootstock selection affects fruit quality, and changes the shape and productivity of the tree scion, or top, and how scion traits can be modified by using different rootstocks.

### **Youth, Mustangs and Draft Horses at Equine Center**

The Empire Farm Days Equine Center seminars for 2015 will focus on Fun on Horseback for Kids, “Dueling Mustangs” with noted American Mustang trainers and competitors Jack and Emma Minteer, and Best Practices for Draft Horse Care, particularly for farmers who rely on heavy horses for fieldwork, logging and family transportation.

### **Celebrate the Farming Life**

The Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences’ Marketplace at Empire Farm Days offers samples of fresh food developed with Cornell expertise, a Kidz Corner, and information and exhibits on everything from sustainable farming practices to invasive species, and the opportunity to talk with faculty and Extension educators about the latest research insights on fruit, vegetable, dairy, livestock and crops production.

Little farmers up to age 12 are invited to enter the expanded Kiddie Tractor Pull that benefits the NYS 4-H Foundation. FFA students compete on Thursday in tractor safety driving and welding competitions. Visitors 18 and older can test drive wheel loaders, backhoes, skidsteers, 4-wheelers and utility vehicles.

Farm family and rural life is featured in programming offered all day at the New York State Grange Center. Canine Sparks and Tibbie Dell lead off at 9:30am followed by presentations on coping with alcoholism, massage, sewing and spinning, Grange Youth, local history, and winemaking. The Pocket Change Band plays from 2:30pm to closing.

When farmers are not plowing, planting or harvesting, they enjoy hunting, fishing, boating and other outdoor activities. The EFD Outdoor Center is filled with conservation organizations and sporting vendors; and the farm pond features a floating variety of water recreation gear and in-water life jacket demonstrations each day. New for 2015: fly fishing demonstrations with Bass Pro Shops daily at 1pm.

If you need to charge a cell phone, laptop or tablet at the show, just plug into the new solar charging station courtesy of Sustainable Energy Developments and the sun at Empire Farm Days!

For a full schedule of 2015 Empire Farm Days activities, visit [www.empirefarmdays.com](http://www.empirefarmdays.com) or call 877-697-7837.

**Contacts:**

- . Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham, 877-697-7837, [mwickham@empirefarmdays.com](mailto:mwickham@empirefarmdays.com)
- . EFD Publicist Kara Lynn Dunn, 315-465-7578, [karalynn@gisco.net](mailto:karalynn@gisco.net)

Photos: <http://empirefarmdays.com/photo-gallery-matching-guide/>