



2015 Empire Farm Days: August 11-13
Rodman Lott and Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY
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Learn about USDA Services at August 11-13, 2015 Empire Farm Days

Seneca Falls, NY. Seven United States Department of Agriculture agencies will be represented at the August 11-13, 2015 Empire Farm Days at Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls, NY. Staff will be available to answer questions about everything from animal and plant inspections and disaster assistance to federal financial incentives for farm improvements and rural development conservation initiatives.

Staff from the following agencies will be available at the USDA Center:

- **Agricultural Research Service (ARS):** serves as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Center's chief scientific research agency, addressing issues vital to sustain a competitive agricultural economy. Scientists from the Agricultural Research Service Plant Genetic Resources Unit, Geneva, NY, will be demonstrating grafting techniques used with apple trees and grapevines daily at 11 am.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine:** provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, protecting and promoting agricultural health, administering the Animal Welfare Act and carrying out wildlife damage management activities.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services:** National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, and Plum Island, NY, provide a wide variety of information and services, centered around diagnosis of domestic and foreign animal diseases, support of disease control and eradication programs, reagents for diagnostic testing, and laboratory certification.
- **Farm Services Agency (FSA):** 39 New York FSA field offices administer farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans, conservation and environmental programs, and emergency/disaster assistance.
- **National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS):** conducts hundreds of surveys annually and prepares reports covering virtually every facet of U.S. agriculture.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):** provides the highest level of conservation resources to land owners through its numerous financial-incentive programs, grants, and technical assistance services. Its staff of experts on resource conservation, soil science, engineering, and program management is available to assist you in your conservation efforts.

- **Rural Development:** serves as USDA's economic and community development arm, with 10 offices in New York State providing grants, loans and loan guarantees through its business, utilities, community facilities and housing programs.

Also in the USDA Center tent will be the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The USDA is part of an Inter-agency Soil Health Working Group that will host two speakers and a panel of farmers daily starting at 9:30am in the new Soil Health Seminar Center at Empire Farm Days.

The USDA NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center and Rodman Lott and Son Farms have established a companion planting plot with soybeans, Dutch white clover and dwarf perennial ryegrass that uses herbicides to limit the cover crops until the bean canopy closes.

Empire Farm Days covers 300 acres with exhibits by 600-plus representatives of agricultural industry representatives; test driving opportunities; DairyProfit and other educational seminars; Equine Center live horse demonstrations, cattle handling, and agricultural plastics recycling; farm safety and farm family displays. This event is the largest outdoor agricultural expo in the Northeastern U.S. Admission is free; parking is \$10 per vehicle. Learn more at www.empirefarmdays.com.

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