



2016 Empire Farm Days: August 9-11
Rodman Lott and Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY
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Learn about USDA Services at August 9-11, 2016 Empire Farm Days

Seneca Falls, NY. Seven United States Department of Agriculture agencies will be represented at the August 9-11, 2016 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 conservation improvements, to farm financing and rural development initiatives.

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

- **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:** helps to protect American agriculture by ensuring enforcement of Plant Protection Quarantines, exotic insect monitoring and overseeing plant pest permits and biotechnology field releases. PPQ facilitates foreign trade by providing export inspection & certification of agricultural goods.
- **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 Service Agency (FSA):** implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices (USDA service centers), including 39 throughout New York. FSA will be presenting demonstrations on a new service they provide in several offices in the state, called Bridges to Opportunity, which provides producers with additional information on ag-related topics and non-USDA services available to them.
- **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 (RD):** 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.

The **New York State Agricultural Mediation Program (NYSAMP)** will also be available in the USDA Center tent. They invite visitors to share their "HOT BUTTON" issues and conflict stories.

The USDA is part of an inter-agency Soil Health Working Group that will host speakers, demonstrations and panel discussions daily starting at 9:30 am in the Soil Health Seminar Center at Empire Farm Days.

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

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