



Empire Farm Days: August 7-9, 2018
Rodman Lott & Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY
877-697-7837, www.empirefarmdays.com



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Photo: Empire Farm Days; photo: Nick Wickham

New Field and Crops Demos; Beef, Dairy, Equine and Soil Health Seminars; New Products and More: August 7-9, 2018 Empire Farm Days

Seneca Falls, NY. On August 7-9, 2018, Rodman Lott and Son Farms at 2973 Route 414 in Seneca Falls, NY, becomes a fabulous showcase of shiny new agricultural equipment for test driving and in working demonstrations, fields planted with new cover crop mixes to beat the summer heat and attract pollinators, Dairy Profit Seminars, beef cattle and horse demonstrations, farm youth showing their tractor driving and welding skills, and much, much more.

Empire Farm Days show hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am to 5 pm, and Thursday 9 am to 4 pm. Admission is free, parking is \$10/vehicle. Directions to reach the showgrounds by automobile and airplane, and show details, are posted at www.empirefarmdays.com. For more information, call 877-697-7837.

New activities and highlights for the 2018 Empire Farm Days event that is the largest outdoor agricultural trade show of its kind include the following.

Field Demonstrations Add Manure Application Options for Less Odor

In addition to the popular forage chopping, merging, hay and tillage demonstrations, the working equipment field demos at the 2018 Empire Farm Days are adding manure application methods that reduce odor and runoff and retain nutrient value. Side-by-side demonstrations will include dribble bars, a grassland tool, disks and shanks.

With new underground piping in place, the irrigation demonstration of an unattended large hard hose water reel system that debuted last year is returning. A fertilizer demonstration is planned as part of the field demos as well.

Tired of Picking Rocks?

See a Bugnot stone grinder and forestry mulcher at work in a new demonstration in 2018.

Take a Test Drive: Applicators, Tractors, Trucks, Heavy Equipment, UTVs

Come try a test drive with large applicator units. Learn how each style of machine works with GPS, section control and other precision features. Experience the boom coverage first-hand with one-on-one manufacturers' reps. Empire Farm Days test driving also puts you in the cab of Milton CATs, FORD Trucks, Hondas, and Yanmar UTVs.

Cover Crop Demos: Options for Summer Stress Tolerance, Pollinators, Compaction

Cover crop field plots at the show in 2018 feature ide-by-side trials of new options with single cover crop species as well as mixes of stress-tolerant summer annuals, good combinations for dealing with compaction and adding organic matter, three pollinator-friendly mixes and four blends for use after small grain or vegetable crops. Take a tour with Seedway and King's AgriSeeds representatives daily at 10:30 am.

Soil Health Speakers and Demos: Always a Great Learning Experience

The Soil Health Seminar Center speakers for 2018 are Dr. Sally A. Flis, Director of Agronomy at The Fertilizer Institute, Washington, DC; Dr. Harold M. van Es, *Building Soils for Better Crops* co-author and a Soil Science professor at Cornell University; and Cornell University Cooperative Extension Regional Field Crops Specialist Michael E. Hunter, a Certified Crop Advisor who is Resistance Management Specialty-certified.

Soil Health Seminar Center activities include a daily farmer panel, tabletop demonstrations, the New York Soil Health Trailer and a rainfall simulator, the opportunity to talk with USDA, Cornell, Soil and Water Conservation personnel, and web-based soil survey mapping.

Tuesday-Only: Forage Expert at Show

Alfalfa and forage consultant Tom Kilcer of Advanced Ag Systems present "New Alfalfa Genetics for Forage Quality and Tips for On-Farm Forage Program Consistency" as part of a 2:30 pm program and social hour hosted by HarvXtraAlfalfa only on Tuesday, August 7. Registration is preferred to www.FGIFieldDays.com; walk-ins also welcome.

One Free DEC Credit Available

Need DEC credits? How about getting one credit for free by arriving on time for the 9:30 am DEC Worker Protection and Pesticide Training. The one-hour training will be offered daily. Those attending must sign in and out to receive a certificate.

Falcon Soil Sampler Demonstrations

The New York State Agribusiness Association and Empire Farm Days have announced that Agrinetix of Rochester, NY, in partnership with Growmark FS, will demonstrate a Falcon Automated Soil Sampler at the 2018 Empire Farm Days. The Falcon collects soil samples every 15 feet. The samples are georeferenced, time-date stamped, and barcoded. The data informs precision application of nutrients and fertilizer.

Quadcopter Demos

Need a bird's eye view of your farm? Camera-equipped quadcopter drone demonstrations will be ongoing each day.

Dairy Profit Seminars for Producers, Farm Staff, Agribusiness Professionals

Eighteen moderators, speakers and panelists for the 2018 Dairy Profit Seminars at Empire Farm Days include farmers, Cornell University dairy and business management specialists, a nutritionist, veterinarians, agribusiness field technicians. Their topics are:

- Three Dairy Herd Management Strategies for Challenging Times
- Data to Dollars: Making More Money from DHI Records and Milk Samples; and Changing Times, Changing Consumers: Telling Dairy's Story.

Beef Up Your Farm Enterprise

The New York Beef Producers Association, Empire Farm Days, Davon Sales, Runnings, and Twin Clover Equipment are offering training and demonstrations on everything from cattle handling system design and beef animal evaluation to preconditioning, safe cattle handling. The Tuesday-only Beef Quality Assurance 4-7 pm training at the show is available by pre-registration with the NY Beef Council at 315-339-6922.

EFD Equine Programs Will Inspire You to Adopt A Horse

On Tuesday, August 7 at the Runnings Round-Up Demonstration Pen, the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program will show how flat track racehorses are retrained as companion horses. On Wednesday, August 8, Jack and Emma Minter of Rose Hill Ranch make an encore visit once-wild horses they have trained in just 100 days to successfully compete at Mustang Magic and Extreme Mustang Makeover. On Thursday, August 9, Begin Again Horse Rescue volunteers will present how and why they rescue and rehabilitate horses of all breeds, mules, donkeys, drafts and miniature horses.

New Programming for Livestock Producers

The new Runnings Round-Up exhibit will feature daily programs on Feeding for Top Line and Body Condition, Safe Handling of Cattle, Simple Solutions for Electric Fencing, and Worry-Free, Frost-Free Watering. Times will be posted at Lot #600.

New Invasive Species, Grape & Hops Program

Daily at 10:30 am at the Craft Beverage Center, Patty Wakefield Brown of the Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes PRISM will present information on invasive species impacting grape and hops production, including how to identify and report Spotted Lanternfly.

Agriculture's Future is Here!

For 2018, Empire Farm Days welcomes Instagram stars, the NY Farm Girls. Three sisters are making a splash with the social media platform to educate the public about the dairy industry. These "Advocates" will be posting their Empire Farm Days' photos and experiences throughout the show at @nyfarmgirls.

The 2018 Ag Leader Lunch, sponsored by Farm Credit East, on Wednesday, August 8, will recognize the Empire State Potato Growers, Inc. 2018 scholarship winner: Megan Ruth Lamb of Hamilton, NY, and the 2018 Agricultural Environmental Management Award-winning farm honored by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, American Agriculturist, and the Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.

Also at the luncheon event, New York State Agribusiness Association will announce a 4R Nutrient Stewardship Management Initiative, a new collaboration by NYSABA, The Fertilizer Institute, and The Nature Conservancy. Commercial fertilizer dealers and agricultural applicators will be invited to voluntarily participate in a 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification program with standards in development by a 4R New York

Stewardship Advisory Committee.

On Wednesday, August 8, at 1:30 pm, 31 youth representing New York and Vermont will make presentations and graduate as the 2018 class of Junior DAIRY LEADERS at the Dairy Profit Seminar at Empire Farm Days.

On Thursday, August 9, New York State FFA students who have worked hard on skill building and raising their safety awareness will compete in tractor driving safety and welding competitions.

Empire Farm Days offers college-bound youth the chance to learn about colleges with agricultural degree programs including Alfred State College, Cornell University, Morrisville State College, SUNY Canton, and SUNY Cobleskill.

Farm Family Safety and Fun

Visitors to the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) Safety Center tent can take advantage of free skin cancer screenings on Tuesday and Wednesday, daily blood pressure checks, and hearing and vision screening on Thursday. Try operating a fire extinguisher here. Sign up for the National Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate Program and the raffle of two ROPS kits. The Center also has New York State Police Troop E Traffic Headquarters' info on slow moving vehicle, ATV and vehicle lighting laws and on New York State Department of Labor farm-related services.

New exhibits in the Farm Bureau Family Education Center focus on the Adopt An Alpaca project by the Allegany County Farm Bureau, the New York Farm Bureau Food and Farm Experience, Ag Fact School Calendars, and the Meet Your Farmer video series. The popular grain box play area, "Chicken Chat" game, and nine pull-up banners available for use by groups statewide on free loan from the New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education Learning Library are here. This is also the place to learn about Farm Bureau membership, and youth, young farmer, and farm-related collegiate resources.

At the Empire Farm Days Pond, visitors will be able to try a Hobie pedal-drive kayak or a standup paddleboard on the water with Morgan Marine. The opportunity will be available all day each day with a short safety introduction. New York Sea Grant, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and New York State Marine Services Bureau will be presenting on-water safety demonstrations at specific times each day.

The Empire State Potato Growers started this event as the Potato Field Days in 1931, and have steadily grown it into an agricultural extravaganza with more than 65,000 farmers, agriculturists, and rural living enthusiasts attending each year. Admission is free; parking is \$10 per vehicle.

In 2018, the show management team led by retiring Empire State Potato Growers Executive Director Melanie Wickham is transitioning leadership to a new team. That team includes Alexandra Grimm as incoming Empire State Potato Growers Executive Director and Empire Farm Days Show Manager, Jamie Meyer as Empire State Potato Growers Assistant Executive Director and Empire Farm Days Exhibitor Coordinator, and Chase Brown as Empire Farm Days Site Coordinator.

Directions, daily schedules, photos, and more details are online at www.empirefarmdays.com. Also see Facebook and Instagram.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

- . Empire Farm Days Show Managers Melanie Wickham, Alexandra Grimm, 585-526-5356
- . EFD Publicist Kara Lynn Dunn, 315-465-7578, karalynn@gisco.net