

# NO FARMS, NO FOOD

**STRONG FARM AND FOOD ECONOMY · HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT · NUTRITIOUS FOOD**

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## STRENGTHEN THE FARM AND FOOD ECONOMY

New York's farm and food businesses are critical to the state's economy and are the principal economic forces in many areas of the state. Farms are small businesses that employ thousands of New Yorkers while purchasing goods and services from countless hardware stores, veterinarians, contractors, banks, equipment dealerships and other local businesses across the state.

Importantly, New York agriculture produces the milk, apples, grapes, vegetables and other raw products that are used by food processors of all sizes across the state. Combined, these farm and food businesses generate over a \$23 billion a year economic impact in New York, while paying millions of dollars in local property taxes to school districts, towns and counties across the state.

### Agricultural Development Fund

The Upstate Agricultural Development Fund was appropriated \$40 million in FY 2008-09 to promote farmer access to new markets, assist new and expanded food processing opportunities and help farmers be more competitive. This economic development funding for agriculture is important to expanding farm profitability and the state's overall farm and food economy. In May 2009, \$10 million of this funding was used to develop a revolving loan fund to build food markets in underserved communities in New York City.

**Budget Message: Reappropriate and spend the remaining \$30 million from the FY 2008-09 State Budget.**

### New York Farm Viability Institute

The New York Farm Viability Institute is a farmer-led nonprofit group that awards grant funds for applied research and outreach education projects that help farms increase profits and provide models for other farms. The Institute works with all farms by supporting applied research, outreach education, information transfer, adoption of technology, business planning and market analysis. 2005-2009 projects have returned an investment of \$21 million in new farm revenue and 160 new jobs! The Institute also administers the New York Center for Dairy Excellence.

**Budget Message: Restore and reappropriate \$3.7 million in unspent funds from FY 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.**

**Restore funding from the proposed \$0 to \$1.8 million in FY 2010-11  
(\$1.5 NYFVI, \$300,000 NYCDE)**

### Marketing New York Farm Products

Funding for the Apple Association and Maple Associations and programs such as Pride of New York promote food and farm products grown in New York and enhance economic opportunities for New York farmers.

**Budget Message: Restore funding from the proposed \$0 to \$1.025 million in FY 2009-10 State Budget.**