



New York State Comptroller  
**THOMAS P. DiNAPOLI**

# **A Profile of Agriculture in New York State**

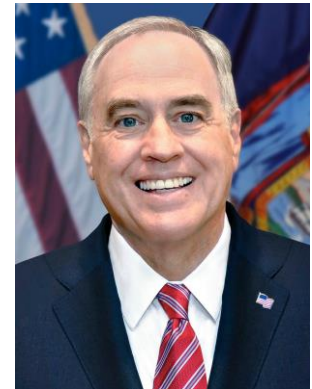
November 2024

# Message from the Comptroller

---

November 2024

Agriculture is an important part of New York State's economy, and farmers make significant contributions to the State. In New York's rural counties, farming can be a significant driver of the regional economy, spurring a suite of support businesses supplying equipment, repair services, seed and soil conditioners and veterinary services, as well as sustaining employment.



Supply disruptions that emptied grocery shelves in the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the vital importance of having sources of food production close to home. In many cases, farmers found new markets as they developed direct-to-customer supply networks and supplied food to local food banks through voluntary donations and programs like Nourish NY that purchased food from local farmers. These direct sales are valuable, keeping food dollars circulating in the local economy.

As New York farmers work to prepare their fields, care for their animals and manage their enterprises, they must also comply with a variety of health, labor and environmental regulations. Farmers have to keep up with markets and the latest in soil science, address the changes in seasonal weather, and contend with increasing extreme weather associated with climate change, all while maintaining the viability of their businesses.

In recognition of the importance of agriculture to New York, the State's policymakers have adopted tax credits and other forms of assistance for farmers. State government must ensure that agriculture in New York continues to support local economies and provide the food we all need.

I hope you will find this overview of the state of agriculture in New York State interesting and informative and remember, if you have eaten today, thank a farmer.

Thomas P. DiNapoli  
State Comptroller

# Table of Contents

---

- Executive Summary..... 1**
- Farming in New York State .....2**
- Agriculture’s Contribution to the New York State Economy .....6**
- New York Farm Products .....9**
- Regional Profiles.....11**
- Focus on Long Island.....15**
- New York’s Agricultural Policy Initiatives.....19**
- Challenges for New York’s Farmers .....23**
- Conclusion .....24**
- Appendix A: Agriculture in New York’s Counties .....25**
- Appendix B: County Statistics, 2022 .....27**
- Endnotes .....29**

# Executive Summary

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2022 [Census of Agriculture](#), widely considered the most authoritative source on domestic agricultural production, shows that farming is practiced in every county in New York State, with 30,650 farms and farmland comprising 21.6 percent of the State's area. The Census presents data on a wide range of farms—enterprises that bring in at least \$1,000 annually from agriculture product sales—which in New York can range from 800-acre dairy farms in Western New York to greenhouses or sub-acre outdoor plots in Manhattan.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2022 farming contributed \$2.7 billion to the State's gross domestic product, and research from Cornell University found that farming and related businesses directly supported 163,148 jobs in New York in 2019. A robust agricultural sector is important to the State's economy and the resilience of its food supply networks.

This report summarizes data from the Census and presents several findings:

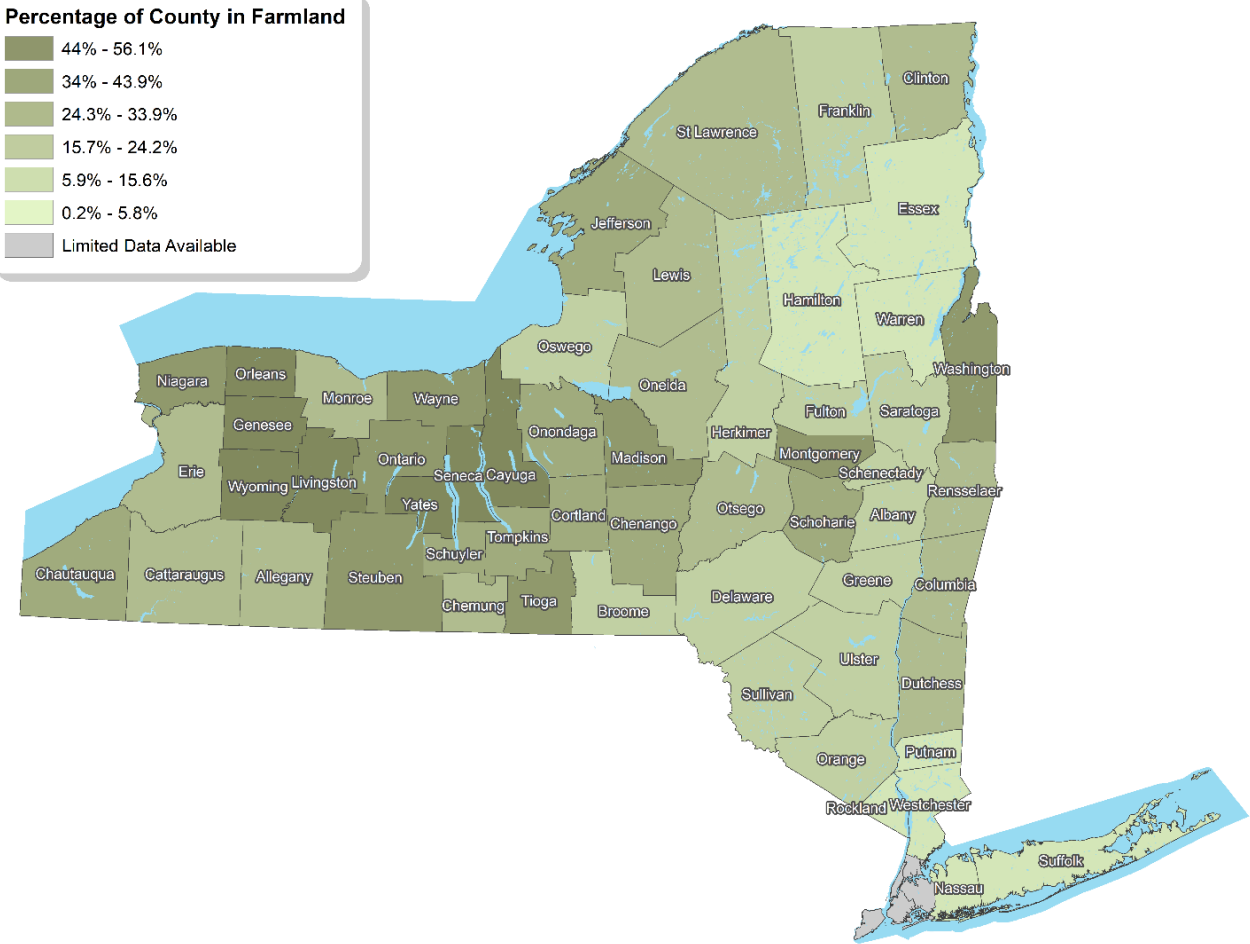
1. Between 2012 and 2022, the State lost close to 14 percent of its farms and over 9 percent of farmland. At the national level, farms and farmland are declining as well, but since 2017 New York is losing these resources faster than the U.S. and its neighboring states with the exception of Connecticut (farms) and Massachusetts (farmland). Conversion of farmland to other uses, particularly residential, commercial or industrial, ends its potential for farming purposes in the foreseeable future.
2. Approximately 75 percent of the State's farms are under 200 acres and 70.5 percent of farms are fully owned by the farmer. The share of farms owned by Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) has more than doubled from 6.6 percent to 13.6 percent. These farms encompass more than 28 percent of the State's farmland, up from 15 percent in 2012.
3. Many farmers in New York rely on sources of income outside of farming: while 41.7 percent reported that they worked exclusively on the farm, more than half list their primary occupation as something else; 35.2 percent reported that they work more than 200 days a year off the farm.
4. Since the last census in 2017, net income on New York's farms grew 63.1 percent (gross income minus expenses). Most revenues are generated from product sales (\$8.0 billion), and New York continues to be one of the nation's top producers of cow milk, fruits, tree nuts and berries. Agritourism and recreation income grew 78 percent between 2012 and 2022.
5. Since 2017, farm expenses grew by 42.8 percent to \$6.2 billion. In 2022, hired labor and feed comprised close to 40 percent of farm expenditures; from 2012 through 2022, hired labor expenditures grew by 68 percent, far surpassing the growth in other categories.

While the State has a range of policies supporting agriculture, New York farmers continue to face challenges. Opportunities for policymakers to consider include additional support for direct-to-customer, or direct-to-institution, marketing, helping farmers to increase the share of New York produced food that is sold in the State; continued research and services for climate mitigation measures and climate change resistant crops; and bringing new farmers into the field by providing training, access to land and other necessary inputs.

# Farming in New York State

New York’s agricultural industry takes place on different types of farms and produces a broad array of products. While the classic image of a farm may be characterized by a large dairy farm on the Ontario Plains, or an apple orchard in the Hudson Valley, in reality, farms in New York State may be growing kelp or nursery plants on Long Island, producing vegetables for food manufacturers or farm stands along the Schoharie River or cut flowers and produce on roof tops in New York City.

**Figure 1**  
**Farmland as a Percentage of Total Land Area by County, 2022**



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

While the share of land in each county that is farmland varies widely, more than one-fifth of the State is farmland; however, the number of farms and the amount of land held in farms have declined since 2012. In 2022, there were 30,650 farms in the State, a decline of 2,788 (8.3 percent) from 2017, and the total amount of land in farms declined by 363,885 acres (5.3 percent). Most of the State’s counties also lost both farms and farmland; however, the number of farms and the amount of farmland grew in 7 counties, and an additional 17 experienced growth in farmland or farms. (See Appendices A and B for more information.)

**Figure 2**  
**Overview of New York Farms, 2012, 2017 and 2022**

	2012	2017	2022	Percent Change		
				2012 – 2017	2017 – 2022	2012 – 2022
Number of Farms	35,537	33,438	30,650	-5.9%	-8.3%	-13.8%
Total Land in Farms in Acres	7,183,576	6,866,171	6,502,286	-4.4%	-5.3%	-9.5%
Farmland as a Percent of State	23.8	22.8	21.6	-4.2%	-5.3%	-9.2%
Average Farm Size in Acres	202	205	212	1.5%	3.4%	5.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The overall decline of land in farms may be troubling, as conversion of farmland to other uses, particularly residential, commercial or industrial, removes its use for farming purposes in the foreseeable future. In addition, some farmland is also being converted to allow renewable energy generation. Data from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services shows 1,728 acres located in agricultural districts classified as solar electric generation facilities, an amount equivalent to 0.5 percent of farmland lost between 2017 and 2022.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2017, New York State lost a larger share of farms and farmland when compared to most neighboring states, and the nation (see Figure 3).<sup>2</sup> Among neighboring states, the number of farms increased only in New Jersey. Of those that lost farms, New York lost a larger share than all but Connecticut.

**Figure 3**  
**Percent Change in Farm Numbers and Farmland in New York and Neighboring States, 2017 – 2022**

State	Change in Farms	Change in Farmland
New Jersey	1.2%	-3.1%
Massachusetts	-2.2%	-5.5%
Ohio	-2.3%	-2.2%
Vermont	-4.0%	-1.6%
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
Pennsylvania	-7.7%	-3.0%
<b>New York</b>	<b>-8.3%</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>
Connecticut	-8.4%	-2.5%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The size of the average farm in New York has grown from 202 to 212 acres since 2012, but approximately 75 percent of the State’s farms are under 200 acres. Farms under 50 acres have become more prominent in the last decade, growing from 32.6 percent in 2012 to 37.6 percent of all farms in 2022. At the same time, farms of at least 1,000 acres have grown to fully 4 percent of all farms in 2022, from 3.1 percent in 2012. New York has the largest average farm size in the Northeast; however, this is relatively small when compared to states like Wyoming or Montana where average farm sizes are in excess of 2,000 acres.

**Figure 4**  
**Share of Farms by Size, 2012, 2017 and 2022**

Size of Farm	2012	2017	2022
1 to 9 acres	8.2%	10.9%	11.1%
10 to 49 acres	24.4%	25.8%	26.5%
50 to 179 acres	38.1%	35.3%	35.8%
180 to 499 acres	21.0%	19.5%	18.0%
500 to 999 acres	5.3%	5.2%	4.6%
1,000 to 1,999 acres	2.1%	2.1%	2.7%
2,000 acres or more	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Most farms in New York (70.5 percent) are fully owned by the farmer, while 25.6 percent are a mix of owned and rented land and 3.9 percent of farms are farmed by tenants.<sup>3</sup> When the extended family of the farmer is taken into consideration, 94.6 percent of New York farms are family-owned.

The majority of New York farmland is used for growing crops, but approximately 2.9 million acres, or 44 percent, is used for animal agriculture including grazing (11 percent) and growing crops for animal feed (33 percent). Of land used for animal agriculture, 1.8 million acres is comprised of dairy farms, or approximately 28 percent of total State farmland.<sup>4</sup>

With 1,144 organic farms selling \$224.9 million in organic products, organic farmers make up approximately 3.7 percent of the State’s farms.<sup>5</sup> According to the USDA’s 2021 Organic Survey, New York State ranks second in the nation for organic certified acres, with 331,438 acres so certified.<sup>6</sup> Between 2017 and 2022, organic farms declined by 23.6 percent. However, the value of sales from organic farms increased by 8.9 percent.



Almost 14 percent of farms are incorporated as limited liability companies (LLCs). The number of farms incorporated as LLCs and the amount of farmland these farms encompass has increased steadily since 2012, while total farms and farmland in the State has decreased, such that the share of farms and farmland under this form of incorporation has roughly doubled since 2012. In 2022, more than 28 percent of farmland is owned by farms incorporated as LLCs. Consolidation of land under LLCs may also be one reason the average farm size is growing.

**Figure 5**  
**Share of Farms Incorporated as LLCs 2012 – 2022**

Year	Farms Incorporated as LLCs	Share of Total Farms	Acres	Share of Total Farmland
2012	2,333	6.6%	1,074,180	15.0%
2017	2,962	8.9%	1,304,616	19.0%
2022	4,154	13.6%	1,831,126	28.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture



# Agriculture's Contribution to the New York State Economy

---

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) found that farms in New York State contributed \$2.7 billion to State gross domestic product (GDP), increasing from \$2.4 billion in 2017.<sup>7</sup> The BEA finds that in 2022 processing and manufacturing of farm produce by the food, beverage and tobacco product manufacturing industry contributed an additional \$10.6 billion to State GDP.<sup>8</sup> In addition, research at Cornell University has found agriculture directly contributed 163,148 jobs in 2019, an increase of 12.3 percent from 2014.<sup>9</sup>

According to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, New York farms grossed \$8.5 billion in income in 2022.<sup>10</sup> Gross income grew by 47.8 percent from 2017, more quickly than expenses, which grew by 42.8 percent, resulting in strong gains in net income. After accounting for total farm expenses of \$6.2 billion, net income on New York farms was \$2.3 billion, a growth of \$904.3 million or 63.1 percent.<sup>11</sup>

This performance is remarkable as in the five years since the last Census, food production and distribution systems have experienced significant economic upheaval as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted labor markets and supply chains, and kicked off the highest rate of inflation since 1981. Over the course of the pandemic, supply chain problems led to shortages of staple foods in stores, and households experiencing loss of income may have also experienced food insecurity.<sup>12</sup> New York farms contributed to the State's response to COVID-19, working under challenging conditions to keep farm labor safe from the virus while also providing their produce to food banks through State and local initiatives.<sup>13</sup> This experience demonstrated not only the value of agriculture to the State's economy, but the importance of policies to ensure resilient networks of food supply and distribution.

## Farm Income

Many farmers in New York rely on sources of income outside of farming. While 41.7 percent of New York farmers reported that they worked exclusively on the farm, more than half of farmers list their primary occupation as something else, with 35.2 percent reporting that they worked more than 200 days a year off the farm.

Gross income of \$8.5 billion is predominately from product sales, which totaled \$8.0 billion, an increase of \$2.7 billion (49.7 percent) from 2017. The USDA defines a farm as an agricultural producer that sells \$1,000 or more of products a year. Small farms are classified as those with less than \$350,000 in gross cash farm income.<sup>14</sup> In 2022, over 90 percent of New York State farms fell into this category.

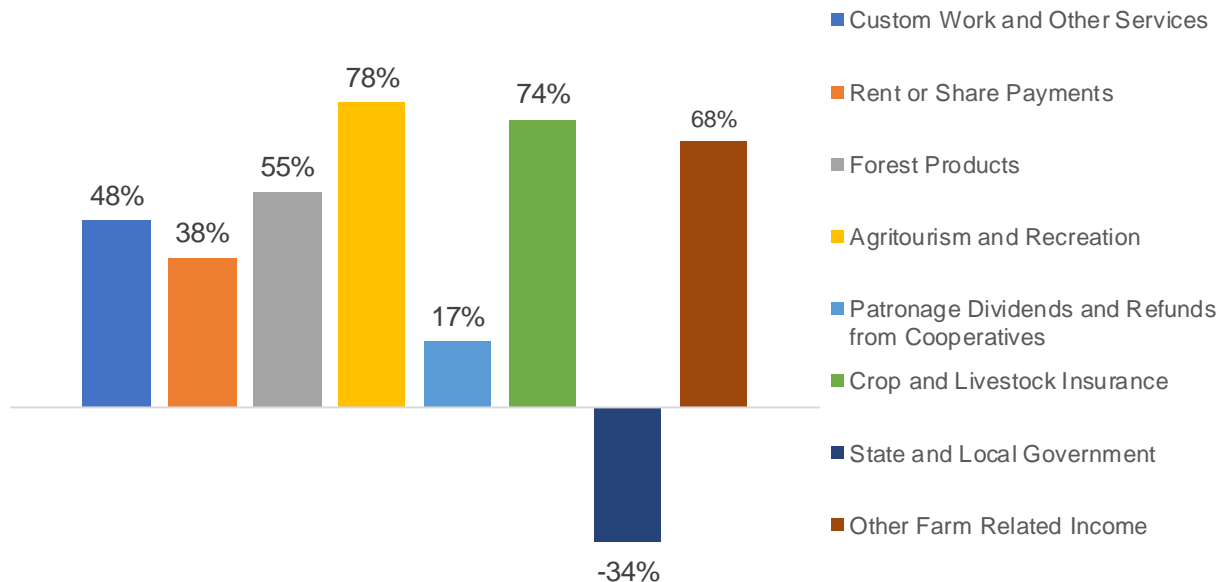
**Figure 6**  
**Numbers of Farms by Sales Volume, 2022**

Sales	Farms	Percent of Total
Less than \$2,500	8,734	28%
\$2,500 to \$9,999	5,963	19%
\$10,000 to \$49,999	7,600	25%
\$50,000 to \$249,999	4,572	15%
\$250,000 to \$499,999	1,527	5%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	844	3%
\$1 million or more	1,410	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,650</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The balance of gross income was comprised of federal government payments and farm-related work. Government payments from federal programs of \$66.3 million increased by \$7.2 million (12 percent) from 2017. Farmers reported approximately \$411 million from farm-related work;<sup>15</sup> of this, the fastest growing category was agritourism and recreation, as shown in Figure 7. Agritourism includes income from recreational services such as hunting, fishing, farm or winery tours, and comprised 13.5 percent of farm-related income in 2022. A [recent report](#) from the Office of the State Comptroller described how agritourism has been growing on farms across the state in the post-pandemic period. In contrast, State and local government agricultural program payments was the only category of farm-related income to decline.

**Figure 7**  
**Percent Change in Farm Income Categories, 2012 – 2022**



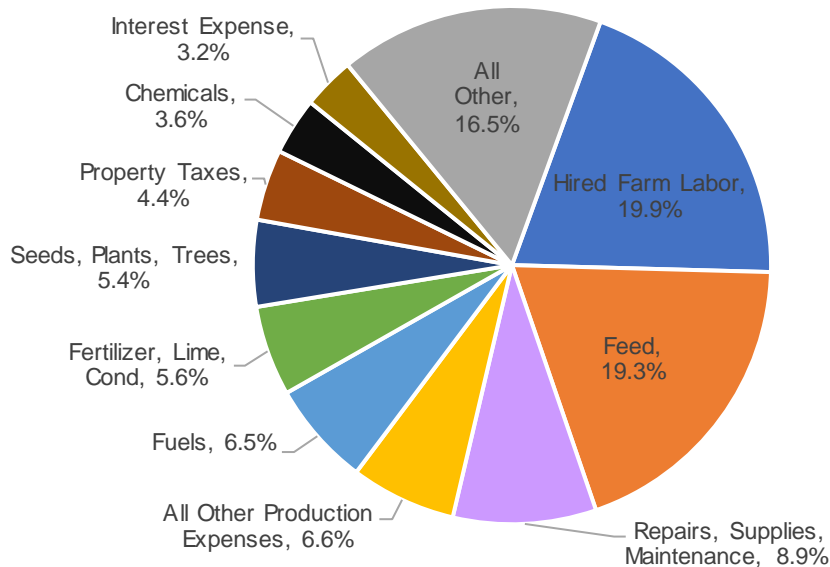
Note: Custom work includes receipts from providing services for other farmers but does not include income from these activities if they are incorporated as a separate business from the farm.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Farm Expenses

In 2022, New York’s farms paid a total of \$6.2 billion in expenses, an increase of \$1.9 billion from 2017. In 2022, hired farm labor and feed were the two largest expense categories, comprising 39.1 percent of total farm expenses. Hired farm labor occupied a larger share of expenditures in 2022 compared to 2017 (19.9 percent vs.18.8 percent), while that for feed expenses decreased to 19.3 percent from 20.2 percent in 2017. The remaining categories of expenses are shown in Figure 8.

**Figure 8**  
Expense Categories as a Percent of Total, 2022

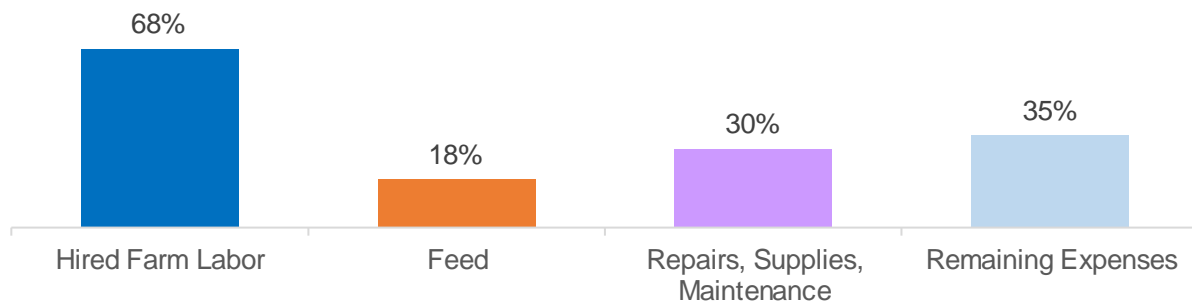


Note: Categories may not total to 100 percent due to rounding. Expenses in “All Other” include: cash rent for land, buildings and grazing (3.1 percent); utilities (3 percent); custom work and hauling (2.7 percent); livestock, poultry purchase, or lease (2.5 percent); medical, veterinary and other livestock (2.5 percent); contract labor (2.1 percent); rent and lease of machinery (0.7 percent).

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Between 2012 and 2022, the costs of hired farm labor grew much more rapidly than other expenditures, and more than three and a half times faster than the cost of feed.

**Figure 9**  
Percent Change in Major Farm Expenses, 2012 – 2022



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

# New York Farm Products

New York farmers grow a diverse range of products. Dairy is far and away New York’s top agricultural commodity with sales of cow milk comprising nearly half (48.2 percent) of State agricultural product sales in 2022, and more than four times the sales of the State’s second highest product, grains, dry beans, oil seeds and dry peas, as shown in Figure 10.<sup>16</sup>

Compared with sales from 2017, cow milk has increased its share of total agricultural product sales by approximately 1 percent, even as the number of dairy farms in the State has declined by 40 percent over the same period. Total sales of cow milk have also increased from 2017, by \$1.3 billion (53 percent).

**Figure 10**  
**Agricultural Products by Sales, 2022**

Product	Sales (millions)	Share of Total	U.S. Rank
Cow Milk	\$3,873	48.2%	3
Grains, Dry Beans, Oil Seeds, Dry Peas	\$954	11.9%	26
Fruits, Tree Nuts, Berries	\$721	9.0%	5
Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, Sod	\$538	6.7%	10
Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	\$500	6.2%	12
Cattle and Calves	\$493	6.1%	31
Other Crops and Hay	\$410	5.1%	16
Poultry and Eggs	\$356	4.4%	29
Horses, Ponies, Mules, Burros, Donkeys	\$76	1.0%	5
Other Animals and Animal Products	\$32	0.4%	14
Hogs and Pigs	\$26	0.3%	30
Aquaculture	\$25	0.3%	19
Sheep, Goats, Wool, Mohair, Milk	\$17	0.2%	20
Cultivated Christmas Trees, Woody Crops	\$15	0.2%	8

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Sales of cow milk rank third nationally, comprising 7.3 percent of total US sales. New York farms are also top producers of other products. As shown in Figure 11, New York harvested more acres of beets than any other state, 22.2 percent of U.S. production. Other New York agricultural products ranking among the highest in the nation were apples, maple syrup and head cabbage, representing 15.2 percent, 13.0 percent, and 11.2 percent of total U.S. production, respectively.

**Figure 11**  
**Selected Agricultural Products in the Top 3 Nationwide, 2022**

Product	U.S. Rank	Share of U.S. Production
Beets	1	22.2%
Apples	2	15.2%
Maple Syrup	2	13.0%
Gourds	2	9.6%
Red Clover Seed	2	3.1%
Ginger Root	2	2.6%
Parsnips	2	2.4%
Brussel Sprouts	2	1.3%
Head Cabbage	3	11.2%
Milk from Cows	3	7.3%

Note: Rankings are based on acres or pounds harvested, except for maple syrup which is based in gallons produced and milk which is based on sales.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Figure 12**  
**New York Farms and Farmland by North American Industry Classification System, 2022**

NAICS Classification	Number of Farms	Percent of Total	Farmland (Acres)	Percent of Total	Average Size (Acres)
Dairy and Milk	2,152	7.0%	1,802,666	27.7%	838
Hay and All Other Crops	8,293	27.1%	1,642,957	25.3%	198
Oilseed and Grain	2,581	8.4%	1,284,783	19.8%	498
Beef Cattle	3,727	12.2%	556,866	8.6%	149
Fruit and Tree Nut	2,780	9.1%	315,108	4.8%	113
Aquaculture and Other Animal	4,405	14.4%	275,003	4.2%	62
Vegetable and Melon	1,713	5.6%	239,101	3.7%	140
Greenhouse, Nursery, Floriculture	2,211	7.2%	163,367	2.5%	74
Poultry and Egg	1,236	4.0%	74,674	1.1%	60
Cattle Feed Lots	212	0.7%	64,423	1.0%	304
Sheep and Goat	956	3.1%	54,834	0.8%	57
Hog and Pig	384	1.3%	28,504	0.4%	74

Note: Percents may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Regional Profiles

**Figure 13**  
**Farms, Farmland and Agricultural Sales by New York Region, 2022**

Region	Farms	Acres of Farmland	Total Agricultural Sales
Capital Region	3,068	522,254	\$633,367,000
Central New York	2,965	734,823	\$1,101,106,000
Finger Lakes	5,578	1,363,744	\$2,341,356,000
Hudson Valley	2,280	307,848	\$300,942,000
Long Island	607	34,486	\$372,942,000
Mohawk Valley	3,381	679,982	\$544,773,000
New York City	52	86	\$7,499,000
North Country	3,612	1,031,319	\$1,174,569,000
Southern Tier	4,747	1,054,856	\$754,996,000
Western New York	4,360	772,863	\$805,484,000

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Finger Lakes

This region includes the counties of Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates. The Finger Lakes has the largest amount of farmland in the State, close to 1.4 million acres, representing 46 percent of the total regional land area. Between 2017 and 2022, the region lost 5 percent of its farmland; however, the counties of Yates, Wayne, Orleans and Livingston experienced small gains. This region ranked first in the State for total sales with \$2.3 billion, containing two of the State’s top counties for commodity sales, Wyoming (2) and Wayne (3). The Finger Lakes contains a higher number of farms, 5,578, than any other region, although the region lost 6 percent of its farms between 2017 and 2022.

Finger Lakes counties are among the State’s top producers in a number of products including maple syrup; grains, oilseeds, dry beans and dry peas; sheep, goats, wool, mohair and goat milk; hogs and pigs; vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes; fruits, tree nuts and berries, as well as cattle and calves. With 131 wineries, this region has the most of any region in the State.<sup>17</sup>

## North Country

The North Country region includes Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and Saint Lawrence counties and is home to 3,612 farms. It ranks second in the State for total sales with \$1.2 billion in 2022 and includes the State’s leading producer of poultry and eggs—Clinton County. This region is third in the State for total farmland with over 1 million acres, representing 14 percent of the region’s area. North Country counties are leading producers of hay and other crops (which includes grass seed, hops and grass silage) in the State. The North Country leads the State in sales of maple syrup.

## Central New York

The Central New York Region includes Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego Counties. Cayuga County, with the highest total sales in the State, helped push the region to third in overall sales of \$1.1 billion in 2022. With 2,965 farms, the region saw a reduction in farms of 10 percent from 2017 and experienced an overall loss of farmland of 3 percent between 2017 and 2022. Onondaga realized an increase of farmland of 2 percent while all other counties experienced losses. Cayuga led the State in sales of cow milk, while Madison County was number two in nursery, greenhouse and floriculture sales. Onondaga County was third in sales of poultry and eggs.



## Western New York

This region includes the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara. In 2022, this region was home to 4,360 farms, third in the State, having lost 243 farms, or 5 percent, since 2017. Over this period, the region lost 7 percent of farmland, with only Chautauqua County gaining in both farms and farmland. Chautauqua ranked third in the State in sales of fruits, tree nuts and berries, while Erie ranked third in the state in sales of nursery, greenhouse and floriculture sales. Cow milk was the top commodity by sales for all counties in the region.

## Southern Tier

The Southern Tier includes the counties of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties. This region contains the second largest number of farms, with 4,747. With a loss of 612 farms, this region experienced the largest overall loss among regions. Between 2017 and 2022, the region lost 4 percent of farmland, but with 1.1 million acres of farmland the Southern Tier has the second most farmland in the State.

As with most regions, the top commodity by sales in each county is cow milk. However, both Broome and Chemung counties achieve their highest rank by sales at the State level for horses, ponies, mules, burros and donkeys. Steuben and Tompkins counties achieve high relative State ranks for sales of hogs and pigs, ranking second and fifth in the State, respectively.

## Capital Region

The Capital Region includes Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties. It is home to 3,068 farms, and over 520,000 acres of farmland. While in total the region lost 10 percent of its farms, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Warren counties saw increases in farm numbers. In 2022, the region lost close to 7 percent of its farmland, or 38,575 acres, but Washington and Saratoga realized increases in farmland of 5 and 3 percent, respectively, and Saratoga was one of the few counties in the State that gained both farms and farmland.

Most counties in the Capital Region realized the largest percentage of farm sales from milk, but in Warren County nursery, greenhouse and floriculture topped commodity sales. Saratoga County was number 1 in the State for sales of horses and ponies in 2022, while Columbia County ranked third in the State for aquaculture sales. Albany County was fourth in the State for nursery sales, and Washington County was fourth for sales of cow milk.

## Hudson Valley

This region includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Combined, these counties have 2,280 farms and 307,848 acres of farmland, a 2 percent increase and 3 percent decrease, respectively, from 2017. Two counties, Rockland and Ulster, saw growth in the number of farms. Ulster also experienced an increase in farmland of 24 percent. The Hudson Valley is a rare New York region in that cow milk is not a top crop by sales in any of its constituent counties. The region is home to the top ranked county for Christmas tree sales (Orange County) and sales of other animals and products (Dutchess County), a category that includes honey, bison and equine products. Ulster County is ranked second in the State for fruits, tree nuts and berries.



## Mohawk Valley

The Mohawk Valley includes Fulton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego and Schoharie counties and is home to 3,381 farms and nearly 680,000 acres of farmland. The region lost 10 percent of its farms and 3 percent of its farmland between 2017 and 2022. During this period, Oneida County lost over 130 farms, or 14 percent, while Herkimer County lost over 11,000 acres of farmland, balanced by Schoharie County's addition of close to 9,000 acres.

Three of the region's counties, Herkimer, Otsego and Schoharie, are in the top 10 in the State for sales of sheep and goats. Fulton County is seventh in the State for sales of Christmas trees, while Oneida County is fifth for sales of aquaculture products. Cow milk is the top sales commodity in all these counties. Schoharie County is famous for its high-quality soils, with a reputation of having served as the breadbasket for General Washington's Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War.

## New York City

New York City was home to 52 farms in 2022, an increase of 12 from 2017. Farms in New York's five boroughs are mostly located on small lots or rooftops, and include farms associated with New York City Housing Authority properties and the 47-acre Queens County Farm Museum, which has been continuously farmed since 1697.<sup>18</sup>

Given the small numbers of farms, some data is not reported for City boroughs to preserve the anonymity of respondents. The data reported shows 86 acres of farmland, but no data is reported for Brooklyn in this category, although the borough is credited with 15 farms. Queens has the most farms of any borough with 19, while Manhattan has 12, Staten Island 5 and the Bronx 1. All these farms but one are under 10 acres. Brooklyn ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the State for sales of Nursery products, while vegetables, melons, potatoes and sweet potatoes are listed as top sales commodities for both Manhattan and Queens. Nursery products are listed as the top sales commodity for Staten Island. No sales information was provided for the Bronx.

# Focus on Long Island

Historically, Long Island had a major farming presence, but losses of farmland to suburban development resulted in this region having the lowest number of farms (607) and the least amount of farmland (34,486 acres) of any region outside of New York City. Farms that remain in Nassau County are significantly smaller than farms in other parts of the state, with an average size of 23 acres, while farms in Suffolk County average 59 acres.

Strong growth in farms and farmland in Suffolk County offset losses in Nassau County to make the Long Island Region the only one in the State to see growth in both categories. With 85 wineries, Long Island ranks second among regions, and growth in these enterprises in Suffolk (+10) may help explain the county’s growth in farms and farmland. Suffolk County’s 79 wineries harvested the third largest acreage of grapes in the State with 4,683 acres harvested on 89 farms in 2022. This represents a growth of 114 percent from 2012, when 70 farms harvested 2,193 acres.

**Figure 14**  
**Overview of Long Island Farms, Income and Expenses, 2022**

Measure	Nassau	Suffolk	Long Island Total	Long Island	
				Change from 2017	Change from 2012
Farms	29	578	607	3%	-8%
Farmland (acres)	665	33,821	34,486	11%	-11%
Average Farm Size (acres)	23	59	57	-9%	-3%
Product Sales (in thousands)	\$8,782	\$364,160	\$372,942	64%	51%
Other Income (in thousands)	\$1,423	\$26,519	\$27,942	62%	69%
Total Farm Expenses (in thousands)	\$6,400	\$325,989	\$332,389	59%	44%
Net Cash Income (in thousands)	\$3,805	\$64,689	\$68,495	87%	112%
Average Sales per Farm (in thousands)	\$302.8	\$630.0	\$614.4	59%	65%
Net Income per Farm (in thousands)	\$131.2	\$111.9	\$113	86%	131%

Note: Other Income includes government payments and other farm-related income. Data for Nassau for government payments and other farm-related income was withheld but imputed by the Office of the State Comptroller.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Almost 60 percent of Long Island farms are in the greenhouse, nursery and floriculture category (31.5 percent) and aquaculture (28 percent). Together, fruit and tree nut farming (including grapes) and vegetable and melon farming represent an additional 29.5 percent of all farms. Suffolk stands out among large agricultural New York counties by having only one dairy farm in 2022.

**Figure 15**  
**Long Island Farms by North American Industrial Classification System, 2022**

Classification	Suffolk	Nassau	Long Island Total	Long Island Share
Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture	187	4	191	31.5%
Aquaculture and Other Animal	155	15	170	28.0%
Fruit and Tree Nut Farming	95	0	95	15.7%
Vegetable and Melon Farming	79	5	84	13.8%
Poultry and Egg	21	3	24	4.0%
Other Crop Farming	18	2	20	3.3%
Beef Cattle	10	0	10	1.6%
Oilseed and Grain	9	0	9	1.5%
Hogs and Pigs	3	0	3	0.5%
Dairy Cattle and Milk	1	0	1	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Shares may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Robust Commodity Sales

Sales and income have grown on Long Island farms. Suffolk County is a commodity sales powerhouse, ranking fourth in the State with \$364.2 million, driven by its number 1 statewide rank for sales of nursery, greenhouse and floriculture products. In 2022, Suffolk County had slightly over 60 percent (16.2 million square feet) of the State's square feet of protected growing capacity under glass or other protection and 82.8 percent of the State's protected growing capacity for nursery stock crops. Long Island also dominates aquaculture sales in the State, with Suffolk and Nassau ranking 1 and 2, respectively, among State counties.

**Figure 16**  
**Top Commodity Sales and Statewide Rank, 2022**

Crops	Sales	Rank Among State Counties
<b>Nassau</b>		
Aquaculture	\$5,342,000	2
Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	\$1,659,000	36
Other Animals and Animal Products	\$506,000	18
Horses, Ponies, Mules, Donkeys	\$134,000	36
Poultry and Eggs	\$19,000	53
<b>Suffolk</b>		
Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, Sod	\$239,845,000	1
Fruits, Tree nuts, Berries	\$53,613,000	5
Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	\$44,471,000	3
Aquaculture	\$9,196,000	1
Horses, Ponies, Mules, Burros, Donkeys	\$1,507,000	12

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Other 2022 highlights include:

- Suffolk County harvested the largest acreage of broccoli (98) and cauliflower (75), and the third largest acreage of beets (33) in the State, the largest acreage (73) of cantaloupes and muskmelons and tomatoes in the open (274) and the largest acreage (54) of cucumbers and pickles and eggplant (51);
- Suffolk harvested the second most acreage of lettuce (196), spinach (83) and pumpkins (400);
- Suffolk harvested the third most acres of potatoes (1,316) in 2022, losing second place by one acre to Wayne County. The 2022 Census shows 46 farms growing potatoes in Suffolk. In 2012, Suffolk harvested 2,605 acres of potatoes from 72 farms, ranking fourth in the State. Acres harvested in 2022 were just slightly over half of the acres harvested in 2012.
- Suffolk County had 2,716 acres of farmland under conservation easement (8 percent of total farmland), an increase of 938 acres or 52.8 percent over 2017.

Farms in Suffolk County lead the State in sales of products directly to consumers, local retailers, or local food processors, with more than \$268 million in such sales. As a result, local dollars spent on agricultural products remain in the Long Island economy.

## Growing Costs

Per-acre farmland market values on Long Island are much higher and increasing at a faster rate than the State average. Nassau’s average value of farmland is just over 15 times the State average and increased dramatically from land prices in 2017. Suffolk’s average farmland value is well over four times the State average and increased at almost twice the State’s rate between 2017 and 2022.

**Figure 17**  
**Estimated Market Value of Farmland, Long Island and New York State, 2022**

Jurisdiction	Total Value of Farmland	Average Per Acre	Per-Acre Change from 2017
Suffolk	\$632,303,000	\$18,696	53%
Nassau	\$41,538,000	\$62,463	260%
State	\$26,671,958,000	\$4,102	27%

Note: Market value includes land and buildings; no figure is provided for land only.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Average property tax bills on Long Island farms have grown roughly twice as fast as the State average. Suffolk County farms also face property tax costs that are higher than the State per farm average, despite the fact that average farm size is smaller than the State average.

**Figure 18**  
**Property Taxes, Long Island Farms and New York State Farms, 2022**

Jurisdiction	Total Property Tax	Average Per Farm	Change from 2017
Suffolk	\$8,596,000	\$17,651	51.3%
Nassau	\$174,000	\$8,700	50.8%
State	\$273,555,000	\$9,301	26.1%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Nassau’s average labor cost per farm is growing at a rate approaching twice as fast as the State average. While Suffolk’s average labor cost per farm is growing at a slower rate than the State average, it exceeds the average per farm sales in many counties.

**Figure 19**  
**Labor Expense, Long Island Farms and New York State Farms, 2022**

Jurisdiction	Total Labor Cost	Average per Farm	Change from 2017
Suffolk	\$137,966,000	\$360,224.54	52.0%
Nassau	\$1,382,000	\$92,133.33	131.1%
State	\$1,227,448,000	\$152,895.86	68.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Characteristics of Long Island Farmers

The average farmer on Long Island is age 56 in Suffolk and 59.2 in Nassau, compared to a statewide average of 56.7. While the average age of farmers increased by 0.7 years in Suffolk County between 2017 and 2022, the number of young farmers (34 years or younger) increased from 111 to 124 between 2017 and 2022.<sup>19</sup>

In 2022, 99 percent of farmers in Suffolk and 95 percent of farmers in Nassau identified as White. In Suffolk, 70 farmers indicated that they were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish background, an increase of 67 percent from those so indicating in 2017. The number of women farmers has also increased, growing by 206, or 69 percent, between 2017 and 2022 to comprise 33 percent of the farmers on Long Island.

# New York's Agricultural Policy Initiatives

---

The Conservation Article of the State Constitution provides that the State shall “encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural lands for the production of food and other agricultural products.”<sup>20</sup> In recognition of the importance of farming to the economy and to New Yorkers’ quality of life, the State has a variety of policy initiatives related to the agricultural sector.

- **[Agricultural Districts Law](#)**. New York’s Agricultural Districts Law, established in 1971, authorizes the creation of agricultural districts to support continued farming through a combination of landowner incentives and protections.<sup>21</sup> For example, within these districts, certain levies and fees may not be imposed on land used in agricultural production and farmers are protected from unreasonable local regulation of farm practices and from private nuisance suits. According to the State Department of Agriculture and Markets (Ag & Markets), as of August 9, 2023, there were approximately 146 agricultural districts in the State encompassing 25,261 farms and 9.2 million acres.<sup>22</sup>
- **[Farmland Protection Program](#)**. Since 1994, the Farmland Protection Program has supported local government efforts to conduct agricultural inventories, create farm-friendly zoning rules and develop agricultural economic development projects. The program also provides grants to land trusts to support local governments in these efforts. In addition, this program has supported local efforts to purchase development rights on farmland to ensure that working farmland cannot be converted to another land use. Over its history, the Farmland Protection Program has awarded \$282 million to preserve 118,400 acres of New York farmland through conservation easements on 397 farms.<sup>23</sup>

State agencies involved in siting renewable electric facilities and Ag & Markets have adopted measures to identify and mitigate impacts to the State’s highest quality agricultural soils from the siting of renewable electric facilities like solar and wind generation.<sup>24</sup> Facilities that are sited in these soils are required to take action to preserve the soil in the construction process and must hire a monitor to ensure that mitigation measures are followed.<sup>25</sup> The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority requires per acre mitigation fees from developers when developers site projects on high quality soils.<sup>26</sup> In addition, State statutes contain measures to encourage siting of renewable generating facilities on lands other than working farmlands, or to promote siting plans that allow farming to continue on the impacted lands.<sup>27</sup>

- **[Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers](#)**. New York State operates grant programs to encourage new entrants to the farming profession, such as the Beginning Farmers grant program, assisting farmers that have operated a farm for less than 10 years, and the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Farmers Grant Program to assist farmers that have faced discrimination, or who have limited access to capital, credit opportunities, or land as compared to individuals who are not socially disadvantaged. In addition to these programs, the State also operates grants for urban farms and community gardens.<sup>28</sup>

- **Marketing New York Products**. The State has developed several programs to promote the local purchase and consumption of New York State products. Ag & Markets administers several programs including New York State Grown and Certified, through which farmers may have their products certified as being grown and produced in New York, through best environmental management practices and reviewed by a third-party verification program (if applicable).<sup>29</sup> Ag & Markets also provides information on stores that carry these products.<sup>30</sup>

Another related program is Taste NY. Created in 2013, this program currently includes products from 1,200 State farms, producers, and companies. The program sells State farm products through an online store, in stand-alone stores, welcome centers, sports arenas and State University of New York campuses.<sup>31</sup>

In addition, the Farmers' Market Program supports purchase of locally grown foods by promoting farmers' markets through the Ag & Markets website, and the agency administers two programs that encourage recipients of food assistance to purchase locally grown foods through the FreshConnect Checks, and NYS Wireless Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) programs.<sup>32</sup>

- **Farm to Institution**. New York State agencies with institutional food service programs, such as the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision and the Office of Mental Health are authorized by the New York State Finance Law to purchase local foods.<sup>33</sup> The Office of General Services (OGS) assists with guidelines and centralized contracts for local foods.<sup>34</sup> In 2022, OGS reported that State agencies directly purchased \$1.8 million in New York foods in addition to purchasing a total of \$15.8 million through centralized contracts.<sup>35</sup>
- **Farm to School**. In addition, the State has several programs to encourage school districts to incorporate New York State agricultural products into their meal programs. The Enacted State Budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-25 included \$10 million in appropriations to provide a 19-cent subsidy for free or paid meals and a 5-cent subsidy for reduced price meals for school lunch programs that purchase at least 30 percent of food produced in New York for their program. In addition, the Enacted Budget appropriates funds for grants to schools to develop facilities to enable the preparation of New York produced food items.
- **Agricultural Environmental Management Program**. Together, Ag & Markets and the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee administer the Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM) to assist farmers in mitigating the environmental impacts of farming. The program is voluntary and provides incentives for the adoption of farming practices that address common sources of environmental pollution, such as contaminated nutrient runoff. In the program, farmers work with their local Soil and Water Conservation District (District) to develop AEM plans. Farmers can then be eligible for financial assistance in implementing their AEM plan through the State's Environmental Protection Fund.<sup>36</sup>

## Tax Benefits for Farmers

New York provides a [variety of tax benefits for farmers](#). Under New York’s Agricultural Assessment program, property tax assessments on farmland can be limited to agricultural assessed value rather than full assessed value. Ag & Markets estimates that the program reduces property tax costs for New York farmers by \$170 million annually.<sup>37</sup> For reference, the 2022 Census of Agriculture reports that New York farmers paid a total of \$274 million in property taxes in 2022, approximately 62 percent of the potential farm property tax bill absent this program.

Other tax benefits include a personal income tax deduction equal to 5 percent of farm income and tax credits for all or a portion of the following: school property taxes paid on the farmland, capital investments, farm employees, overtime paid to farm employees and donations to food pantries. These benefits are estimated to have saved New York farmers over \$84 million in 2022 and are in addition to those related to the Agricultural Assessments program.

As indicated by Figures 20 and 21, most farms report and pay tax as personal income rather than as a corporation leading to lower number of filers for tax credits against State corporate tax. The largest State tax benefit to farmers accrued through the School Property Tax Credit. Benefits accruing to farmers through the Farm Worker Retention tax credit and the Investment Tax Credit increased substantially in 2022 due to large increases in these tax credits. Beginning on January 1, 2022, the Farmworker Retention Tax credit doubled from \$600 per eligible employee to \$1,200. In addition, on April 1, 2022, the Investment Tax Credit for farmers increased from 4 percent to 20 percent.<sup>38</sup>

**Figure 20**  
**Agricultural Tax Credits Claimed Against the State Personal Income Tax, 2015 – 2022**

	Donations to Food Pantries Credit		School Property Tax Credit		Farm Worker Retention Credit		Investment Tax Credit	
	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed
2015	-	-	9,192	\$41,477,987	-	-	218	\$2,014,258
2016	-	-	9,137	\$42,050,819	-	-	223	\$2,508,382
2017	-	-	9,147	\$43,249,446	1,076	\$3,186,816	250	\$876,606
2018	87	\$109,077	8,880	\$42,738,446	1,047	\$2,909,430	150	\$586,194
2019	114	\$138,523	8,715	\$43,007,999	2,397	\$7,782,902	3,151	\$5,895,871
2020	140	\$152,519	8,370	\$41,684,173	2,397	\$6,440,033	3,290	\$7,636,353
2021	135	\$138,027	7,985	\$39,884,552	2,427	\$9,772,982	3,507	\$8,336,686
2022	160	\$349,890	7,766	\$43,037,971	2,462	\$19,928,793	3,684	\$18,249,007

Source: New York State Department of Tax and Finance



**Figure 21**  
**Agricultural Tax Credits Claimed Against the State Corporate Tax, 2015 – 2020**

	School Property Tax Credit		Farm Worker Retention Credit		Investment Tax Credit	
	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed	Number of Filers	Amount of Credit Claimed
2015	28	\$41,805	-	-	91	\$1,259,040
2016	22	\$275,978	-	-	86	\$685,469
2017	22	\$32,134	92	\$658,150	86	\$1,463,127
2018	12	\$13,797	91	\$795,300	83	\$1,042,384
2019	11	\$17,495	99	\$1,349,000	90	\$1,320,786
2020	9	\$31,587	105	\$1,168,000	82	\$1,631,250

Note: From tax years 2018 to 2020, a total of \$8,490 in tax credits for donations to food pantries were claimed against the corporate franchise tax.

Source: New York State Department of Tax and Finance

## Federal Farm Assistance Policy

The federal government also offers a variety of assistance programs for farmers such as crop insurance, farm loans, conservation programs, disaster recovery programs and a variety of grant programs. These programs are typically contained in a package of statutes commonly referred to as a “farm bill.” The most recently enacted farm bill was the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#), or the 2018 Farm Bill, which expired on September 30, 2024. As of November 2024, Congress continues to work on its replacement.<sup>39</sup>

# Challenges for New York's Farmers

---

Farmers in New York face a variety of challenges, some long standing and others more recently emerging or intensifying. Both in North America and globally, international trade is an important aspect of New York's farming industry. In 2022, New York farmers realized just over \$2 billion, or 25 percent of total commodity sales, from exports. The largest categories of exports were plant products, representing 58 percent of total export commodity sales, followed by milk at 33 percent. Given the significant sales volume, international conflicts that may affect trade could have serious repercussions for New York farmers.<sup>40</sup>

Farm commodity prices fluctuate in response to market conditions. Milk prices in particular have significant impacts on New York agriculture given the importance of the State's dairy industry. Milk prices are set through federal regulations called Federal Milk Marketing Orders, which factor in the value and sales volume of dairy commodities along with butterfat content in formulas that set the final price for fluid milk and other dairy products.<sup>41</sup> After achieving a record annual average gross price of \$26.56 per hundred weight in 2022,<sup>42</sup> prices fell to \$21.40 in April of 2023 and recovered slightly to \$23.30 in June of 2024.<sup>43</sup>

Labor costs have also been rising. Enacted in 2019, New York's Farm Laborers Fair Practices Act expanded access to unemployment insurance benefits, workers compensation and disability and paid family leave coverage for farmworkers. The Act also provided farmworkers with the right to organize, as well as a guaranteed day of rest and overtime for hours worked over 60 hours a week.<sup>44</sup> Starting in 2024, the overtime threshold declines to 56 hours a week and then every two years declines by another 4 hours through 2032, such that overtime will be required for hours worked over 40 hours a week in that year.<sup>45</sup> Many farmers expressed concern that the overtime payments would increase costs and create production challenges. In response, New York State established a refundable tax credit for certain farmers equal to 118 percent of overtime payments starting in 2024. Farmers may apply for an advance payment of the tax credit between January 1 and July 31, each year.<sup>46</sup>

Unpredictable weather, a concern since agriculture began, is becoming even more of a threat due to global climate change. Cornell's Climate Smart Farming program notes that climate change presents both threats and opportunities for farmers.<sup>47</sup> Opportunities include the potential to experiment with new crops and benefits from longer growing seasons.

Flooding is affecting Northeast farms as more of the region's precipitation is coming in extreme rainfall events. Overall summer rainfall amounts are expected to remain about the same, while warmer temperatures and longer growing seasons will increase crop water demand, creating a growing risk of short-term summer drought. As temperatures warm, heat stress can reduce crop yields, cause a decline in milk production and reductions in reproductive capacity. The longer growing season will create better conditions for pests to grow and reproduce. And while warming is causing freezes to be less severe, plant and tree flowering is happening earlier in the season while freezes are continuing into the growing season, affecting plants at one of their most vulnerable periods.

# Conclusion

---

Farming remains a critically important industry for New York. The State continues to be a national leader in the production and sales of many agricultural products. Farms generate billions of dollars for the State's economy and provide jobs in communities across the State, especially in rural areas. Agriculture enhances New Yorkers' quality of life in other ways as well, including providing access to fresh, locally sourced food and preserving open space, and policy makers have sought ways to protect and promote this important sector.

One opportunity may be to provide additional support for direct-to-customer, or direct-to-institution, marketing, allowing farmers in New York State to increase the share of New York produced food that is sold in the State. Support for direct marketing to consumers and institutions not only increases the size of the market available to New York farmers, but also may increase farmers' income by allowing the farmer to sell direct at the retail price as opposed to the wholesale or the farm gate value. As noted, this may also help make New York State more resilient in the face of supply chain disruptions, increasing the State's food security. Another way to help farmers generate more income from the products they grow may be to increase support for value-added processing on the farm.

The State should also continue to support research and extension services to promote the development and adoption of climate change resistant crops and measures to mitigate the effects of extreme weather events and hard-to-predict changes in seasonal weather patterns. Through its Climate Resilient Farming Grant program, New York State provided \$15 million in grant assistance in 2023.<sup>48</sup>

While the State has adopted programs to protect farmland, it should continue to evaluate the efficacy of these policies in siting of renewable energy facilities on lands other than productive farmland. Currently, conversion of farmland to solar installations only explains a small portion of the total farmland lost in the State. A review of certain county and town farmland protection plans reveals that commercial or residential development are also perceived as threats to farmland.<sup>49</sup> The State may consider conducting a study of actions that impact on farmland and explore whether additional measures to protect farmland are needed.

Support for programs to advance agrivoltaics—where crop production can be maintained on farmland that solar photovoltaic panels are installed on—may allow farmers to realize energy and agricultural sales from the same land.

In addition, certain farming practices help sequester carbon in the soil and may also help maintain or improve soil health. With support for monitoring, reporting and verification, farmers may be able to monetize sequestered carbon by selling carbon credits, thereby generating an additional revenue stream.

Another way to help build the State's agricultural sector is to continue to help bring new farmers into the field by providing training, access to land and other necessary inputs. By working with the State's farming community to develop supportive policies, New York can ensure that farmers are able to thrive, and the State will be better for it.

# Appendix A: Agriculture in New York's Counties

Although the number of farms and total farm acreage declined on a statewide basis in 2022, 7 counties experienced growth in both farms and farmland, while an additional 12 experienced some growth in farmland and an additional 5 experienced growth in the number of farms. All other counties but one lost both farms and farmland between 2017 and 2022. Dutchess was the only county in which the number of farms remained the same between 2017 and 2022, and there were no counties where the amount of farmland remained static during this period.

**Figure 22**  
**Counties with Growth in Farmland and Growth in Farms, 2017 – 2022**

County	Increase in Farmland	County	Increase in Number of Farms
Broome	13%	Chautauqua	5%
Chautauqua	3%	Hamilton	71%
Chenango	1%	New York	71%
Fulton	5%	Queens	375%
Hamilton	83%	Rensselaer	3%
Jefferson	1%	Rockland	29%
Livingston	4%	Saratoga	2%
New York	9%	Suffolk	3%
Onondaga	2%	Sullivan	0.3%
Orleans	0.4%	Ulster	15%
Saratoga	3%	Warren	16%
Schoharie	9%	Wayne	4%
Suffolk	13%		
Tioga	5%		
Tompkins	2%		
Ulster	24%		
Washington	5%		
Wayne	5%		
Yates	2%		

Note. Counties in orange gained both farms and farmland. The large percentage increase in farms in Queens is the result of an increase in farms from 4 to 19 between 2017 and 2022.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

New York's top producing counties were Cayuga and Wyoming Counties. In both counties, as is the case in 38 out of 60 New York counties, cow milk was the top commodity by sales. Out of all the counties in the top 10 by commodity sales, only Wayne and Suffolk counties had a top commodity by sales that was not cow milk, with fruits, tree nuts and berries as the top commodity in Wayne County and nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod coming in as the top commodity in Suffolk. Farms in Suffolk County lead the State in sales of their products directly to consumers, local retailers, or local food processors.

**Figure 23**  
**Top 10 New York Counties by Commodity Sales, 2022**

County	Total Sales (thousands)	Farms
Cayuga	\$461,927	747
Wyoming	\$420,986	638
Wayne	\$381,461	863
Suffolk	\$364,160	578
Genesee	\$359,698	435
Clinton	\$325,799	536
Ontario	\$293,630	815
Livingston	\$288,077	612
Onondaga	\$271,488	572
St. Lawrence	\$270,424	1,008

Source: US Department of Agriculture

**Figure 24**  
**Top 10 Counties in Direct-to-Customer, Local Retail, or Value-Added Sales, 2022**

County	Direct to Customer	Local Retail	Processed or Value Added	Total
Suffolk	\$50,016,000	\$62,641,000	\$154,591,000	\$267,248,000
Seneca	\$30,380,000	\$13,088,000	\$50,884,000	\$94,352,000
Yates	\$22,899,000	\$16,041,000	\$37,295,000	\$76,235,000
Clinton	\$1,197,000	\$59,834,000	\$471,000	\$61,502,000
Genesee	\$346,000	\$51,150,000	\$150,000	\$51,646,000
Ulster	\$10,656,000	\$31,503,000	\$9,112,000	\$51,271,000
Ontario	\$10,479,000	\$28,718,000	\$11,103,000	\$50,300,000
Wayne	\$2,898,000	\$42,319,000	\$4,674,000	\$49,891,000
Niagara	\$10,629,000	\$28,317,000	\$8,748,000	\$47,694,000
Jefferson	\$11,995,000	\$10,771,000	\$24,117,000	\$46,883,000

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

While commodity sales and net farm income grew on a statewide basis, some counties experienced declines in these measures, in some instances netting a negative income. The counties experiencing declines in commodity sales included Essex (-11%), Fulton (-9%), New York (-41%) and Putnam (-52%). All of these counties but New York experienced a loss in farms or in farmland. Five counties with declines in per-farm average net income were: Albany (-54 percent), Ulster (-20 percent), Schoharie (-14 percent), Seneca (-3 percent) and Chautauqua (-1 percent). Finally, five counties experienced negative net income: including Dutchess, Essex, Queens, Richmond and Warren.

## Appendix B: County Statistics, 2022

County	Farms	Farm Acreage	Percent of Total Land Area	Total Sales (Millions of Dollars)
Albany	349	50,151	15%	\$47.9
Allegany	690	116,686	18%	\$69.8
Bronx	1	NA	NA	NA
Broome	440	70,489	16%	\$54.1
Cattaraugus	833	162,947	19%	\$144.8
Cayuga	747	222,764	50%	\$461.9
Chautauqua	1,291	229,885	34%	\$242.0
Chemung	352	60,337	23%	\$34.5
Chenango	656	151,105	26%	\$123.0
Clinton	536	150,155	23%	\$325.8
Columbia	444	79,391	20%	\$111.2
Cortland	397	91,594	29%	\$108.1
Delaware	579	128,232	14%	\$66.8
Dutchess	620	99,652	20%	\$45.1
Erie	918	141,829	21%	\$192.0
Essex	244	48,510	4%	\$11.8
Franklin	575	139,642	13%	\$149.0
Fulton	205	23,234	7%	\$9.4
Genesee	435	176,887	56%	\$359.7
Greene	201	30,213	7%	\$25.0
Hamilton	24	1,704	0.2%	NA
Herkimer	514	106,572	12%	\$93.1
Jefferson	749	249,497	31%	\$238.9
Kings	15	NA	NA	\$7.1
Lewis	476	151,420	19%	\$178.6
Livingston	612	196,542	49%	\$288.1
Madison	657	170,530	41%	\$190.7
Monroe	511	93,901	22%	\$101.1
Montgomery	522	113,287	44%	\$126.1
Nassau	29	655	0.4%	\$8.8
New York	12	12	<.01%	\$0.026
Niagara	628	121,516	36%	\$156.9
Oneida	834	187,672	24%	\$190.1
Onondaga	572	164,239	33%	\$271.5
Ontario	815	174,577	42%	\$293.6
Orange	613	65,706	13%	\$95.6
Orleans	444	130,055	52%	\$233.6

County	Farms	Farm Acreage	Percent of Total Land Area	Total Sales (Millions of Dollars)
Oswego	592	85,696	14%	\$68.9
Otsego	803	140,587	22%	\$62.6
Putnam	68	3,992	3%	\$1.5
Queens	19	69	<.01%	\$0.285
Rensselaer	483	72,542	17%	\$61.9
Richmond	5	5	<.01%	\$0.079
Rockland	18	442	0.4%	\$4.0
Saratoga	604	73,771	14%	\$115.5
Schenectady	144	13,967	11%	\$6.4
Schoharie	503	108,630	27%	\$63.5
Schuyler	358	70,731	34%	\$68.1
Seneca	422	103,156	50%	\$110.4
St. Lawrence	1,008	290,391	17%	\$270.4
Steuben	1,373	362,171	41%	\$251.7
Suffolk	578	33,821	6%	\$364.2
Sullivan	367	58,719	9%	\$37.5
Tioga	502	118,841	36%	\$67.0
Tompkins	487	92,950	31%	\$89.8
Ulster	486	73,026	10%	\$105.5
Warren	93	8,159	1%	\$2.5
Washington	750	194,060	36%	\$263.0
Wayne	863	167,220	43%	\$381.5
Westchester	108	6,311	2%	\$11.6
Wyoming	638	203,915	54%	\$421.0
Yates	838	117,491	54%	\$152.4

Note: NA designates data that is withheld by the US Department of Agriculture.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Endnotes

---

- <sup>1</sup> Of 10,242.23 acres of parcels classified as solar electric generation facilities, 1,728 acres, or 16.9 percent were located in agricultural districts. See NYS GIS Clearinghouse, NYS Tax Parcel Centroid Points, Accessed October 3, 2024, <https://data.gis.ny.gov/datasets/sharegisny::nys-tax-parcel-centroid-points/about>. While those parcels located in agricultural districts represent 0.5 percent of farmland lost between 2017 and 2022, if all 10,242.23 acres were sited on working farmland, then they represent approximately 2.8 percent of the lost farmland. Of the large-scale renewable projects under contract to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), one currently operating solar facility is sited in an agricultural district, while four cancelled solar projects and one cancelled wind energy project were proposed to be sited in agricultural districts. To arrive at this finding, the locations of large scale renewable projects contracted to NYSEDA, as reported in *Large-scale Renewable Projects Reported by NYSEDA: Beginning 2004* were compared with Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository, *Agricultural Districts, New York State, 2023*. Accessed on October 2, 2024.
- <sup>2</sup> The USDA reports that of all states, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming and Arkansas saw the largest decline in the share of farms between 2017 and 2022.
- <sup>3</sup> In 2022, of the 6.5 million acres of land in farms, 4.7 million acres (72.8 percent) are owned by the farmer and 1.8 million acres (27.2 percent) are rented by the farmer.
- <sup>4</sup> The 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture lists 2,152 farms as dairy farms as classified under the North American Industry Classification System, defined as farms primarily engaged in milking dairy cattle. It lists a larger number (2,783) of farms maintaining cows for milking.
- <sup>5</sup> Organic farms and businesses with less than \$5,000 gross annual organic sales are exempt from USDA certification under 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 205.101(a) <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2%20Exempt%20Producers%20FINAL%20RGK%20V2.pdf>.
- <sup>6</sup> USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2021 Certified Organic, December 2022. Complete data available at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/Organic\\_Production/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Organic_Production/).
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "[Real GDP by State](#)," Figures are in chained 2017 dollars.
- <sup>8</sup> This was a decline from \$11.1 billion in 2017.
- <sup>9</sup> Todd Schmit, "The Economic Contributions of Agriculture to the New York State Economy: 2019," Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. EB 2021-04 (2021)
- <sup>10</sup> The USDA's Census of Agriculture is published every five years based on data produced by a survey of the nation's farmers. It is widely viewed as the most reliable source of information on the status of farming in the U.S.
- <sup>11</sup> USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2022 Census of Agriculture. Complete data available at [www.nass.usda.gov/AqCensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/AqCensus). Unless otherwise noted, all numbers cited are drawn from this source.
- <sup>12</sup> Office of the New York State Comptroller, [New Yorkers in Need: Food Insecurity and Nutritional Assistance Programs](#), March 2023.
- <sup>13</sup> See for example, [Nourish NY](#) or [Emergency Food Package Program Transitions to Paid Program](#), Adirondack Daily Enterprise, November 4, 2020.
- <sup>14</sup> Tony Dorn, "Family Farms Continue to Power U.S. Agriculture," National Agricultural Statistics Service, [Research and Science Blog](#), January 27, 2021.
- <sup>15</sup> The largest share (41 percent) of this income is designated "other farm-related income," and includes income closely related to the farm operation, such as animal boarding, breeding fees, state fuel tax refunds and farm generated energy.
- <sup>16</sup> In 2022 State milk sales totaled \$3.9 billion an increase of \$1.3 billion or 53 percent over 2017 sales. In the period between 2017 and 2022 the number of farms selling milk declined by 1,793, or 45 percent. Over the same period the State's dairy herd increased by 2,954 milk cows to 631,199. At 838 acres, the average size of New York dairy farms is much larger than the average size of all farms.
- <sup>17</sup> New York State Liquor Authority, Current Liquor Authority Active Licenses, Accessed August 19, 2024, 2024, [https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/Current-Liquor-Authority-Active-Licenses/9s3h-dpkz/data\\_preview](https://data.ny.gov/Economic-Development/Current-Liquor-Authority-Active-Licenses/9s3h-dpkz/data_preview). Winery count includes farm wineries, microfarm wineries and special farm wineries as well as wineries.



- <sup>18</sup> See some examples in Zaballos, Lily, “15 Urban Farms and Gardens Bringing Fresh Produce and Food Education to New Yorkers,” Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center, December 9, 2020, <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/15-urban-farms-and-gardens-bringing-fresh-produce-and-food-education-to-new-yorkers>.
- <sup>19</sup> The US Department of Agriculture changed the definition of “young producer” between 2017 and 2022. A young producer is defined as a producer 34 years of age or younger. The 2017 Census of Agriculture included producers 35 years of age or younger. [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AqCensus/2022/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/usappxb.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AqCensus/2022/Full_Report/Volume_1_Chapter_1_US/usappxb.pdf)
- <sup>20</sup> New York State Constitution, Article XIV, Section 4.
- <sup>21</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/agricultural-districts>.
- <sup>22</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/05/agdistrictprofile.pdf>.
- <sup>23</sup> [Governor Hochul Announces Nearly \\$33 Million, Awarded to New York Farms to Protect More than 12,300 Acres of Farmland](#). Governor’s Press Release, June 6, 2024.
- <sup>24</sup> See Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission, Regulations Implementing Article VIII of the Public Service Law, Chapter XI, Title 16 of NYCRR Part 1100, Section 11-2.16 Exhibit 15: Agricultural Resources.
- <sup>25</sup> See New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets *Guidelines for Solar Energy Projects – Construction Mitigation for Agricultural lands*.
- <sup>26</sup> New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, *Solar Installations on Agricultural Lands: Navigating the Development of Solar Projects in Accordance with Local and New York State Agricultural Policies*.
- <sup>27</sup> See Chapter 652 of the Laws of 2022. See also Part M of Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2024.
- <sup>28</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, [Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grants](#), March 25, 2024.
- <sup>29</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, [About New York State Grown and Certified](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.
- <sup>30</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, [Find New York State Grown and Certified Products Near You](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.
- <sup>31</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, [Taste NY](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.
- <sup>32</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, [Operating a Farmer’s Market](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.
- <sup>33</sup> New York State Finance Law Section 165 (4).
- <sup>34</sup> New York State Office of General Services, 2022 New York State Food Metrics Report, 2022.
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid. Pg. 3.
- <sup>36</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/agricultural-environmental-management>.
- <sup>37</sup> New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/tax-credits-and-agricultural-assessments>.
- <sup>38</sup> New York State Division of Budget, *FY 2024 Annual Report on New York State Tax Expenditures*, at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/research/stats/expenditure-reports/fy24ter.pdf>.
- <sup>39</sup> See USDA Farm Service Agency, [Farmers Guide to Farm Bill Programs](#).
- <sup>40</sup> USDA Economic Research Service at [https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/100812/commodity\\_detail\\_by\\_state\\_cy.xlsx?v=5004](https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/100812/commodity_detail_by_state_cy.xlsx?v=5004)
- <sup>41</sup> See USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Price Formulas at <https://www.ams.usda.gov/resources/price-formulas>.
- <sup>42</sup> Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York Dairy Statistics, 2022, at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/2022dairystatisticsannualsummary.pdf#:~:text=The%20New%20York%20State%20milk,out%20at%20%2426.56%20per%20hundredweight>, accessed on June 6, 2026.
- <sup>43</sup> US Department of Agriculture Economics, Statistics and Market Information System, [Agricultural Prices](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.
- <sup>44</sup> New York State Department of Labor, [Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.

<sup>45</sup> Minimum Wage Order for Farm Workers Including Occupations in Agriculture Particularly Hazardous for the Employment of Children Below the Age of 16, 12 NYCRR Part 190.

<sup>46</sup> Department of Agriculture and Markets, [Farm Employer Overtime Credit Advance](#), accessed on June 6, 2024.

<sup>47</sup> Climate Smart Farming, A Program of Cornell University, at <https://climatesmartfarming.org/changing-climate/>, accessed on June 6, 2024. Unless otherwise noted all following climate facts are drawn from this source. Cornell provides advice and assistance in addressing these challenges through changes in tillage, crop selection, shifting planting dates and capital investments such as field tiling for drainage and cooling for livestock barns. Some of these changes provide opportunities for farmers through carbon sequestration in soils that may improve the soil and produce salable carbon credits, or changes in crops that allow farmers to take advantage of a longer and potentially drier growing season.

<sup>48</sup> [New York State Announces Two Grant Opportunities to Help Farmers to Combat Climate Change and Protect Water Quality](#). Governor's Press Release, March 28, 2023.

<sup>49</sup> See [Chemung County, New York Agricultural Economic Development Plan](#) (Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan) and [Farmland Protection Plan, Jefferson County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan](#) and [Town of Saratoga Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan](#).

## Contact

Office of the New York State Comptroller  
110 State Street  
Albany, New York 12236

(518) 474-4044

[www.osc.state.ny.us](http://www.osc.state.ny.us)

Prepared by the Office of Budget and Policy Analysis

Maria Doulis, Deputy Comptroller  
John Stouffer, Director of Environmental Initiatives  
Joshua Simons, Policy Director  
Mary Arzoumanian, Director of Tax Studies