



**New York State Assembly**

**Sheldon Silver**  
Speaker



# 2013

## ANNUAL REPORT

Committee on

**Agriculture**

**William Magee**  
Chairperson





WILLIAM MAGEE  
Assemblyman 111<sup>th</sup> District

CHAIRMAN  
Agriculture Committee

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

December 15, 2013

CHAIRMAN  
Joint Legislative Commission on  
Dairy Industry Development

COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Banks  
Higher Education  
Local Governments

The Honorable Sheldon Silver  
Speaker of the Assembly  
Room 349, State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Silver,

As Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture, I respectfully submit to you the 2013 Annual Report. I have outlined the Committee's significant legislation as well as the Committee's priorities for the upcoming 2014 Session.

The agricultural industry is of the utmost importance to New York State. Agricultural production returned almost \$4.7 billion to the farm economy in 2010. A 2012 report by Farm Credit East estimates that total impact on State economic output from agricultural and forestry production, food processing and off-farm services was approximately \$38 billion and generated 196,000 jobs. Dairy processing alone was estimated to generate \$11.6 billion in output and create over 46,000 jobs. Nearly 23 percent of the state's land area, or 7 million acres, are used by over 36,000 farms to produce a very diverse array of food products such as dairy, fruits, vegetables, and maple syrup.

New York is the leading producer in the U.S. of Greek yogurt, cottage cheese and sour cream and ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in production of apples, wine, maple syrup and cabbage. Although the State has significant production of several commodities, the typical farm is owned and managed by a family and is less than half the size of the national average.

Throughout the 2013 Legislative Session, the Committee remained dedicated to promoting policies that would assist New York's farms, approving legislation that passed both houses of the legislature to: cap agricultural land taxes; promote New York farm products to consumers; and, identify and develop farm products to meet consumer demand.

In addition, the Committee's 2012 hearing on providing assistance for the next generation of farmers resulted in legislation designed to: identify public land that may be viable for farming; encourage the State to sell or lease such lands when feasible; and, provide that information to interested farmers or those interested in starting to farm. A 2013 roundtable on Agricultural Districts in suburban areas resulted in a proposal to reduce the minimum acreage required for a county to establish an Agricultural District.

The Committee was also successful in passing several animal protection bills that would: improve the Pet Lemon Law; train local animal control officers; strengthen oversight of pet dealers; and, provide additional authority for local governments to regulate pet dealers.

The Committee fought to increase agriculture-related funding in the 2013-14 State budget. The Legislature added nearly \$4 million to restore programs to their 2012 levels, provided additional funding for several programs and funded new initiatives. Agriculture budget language also included a new law ensuring certain gas stations in key locations near high traffic areas will be ready to hook up generators for use during disaster power outages. Adoption of this new safety measure was accomplished through consultation with businesses and those responsible for emergency preparedness to ensure safety and to appropriately target regions of the State where the need will be greatest.

While farming continues to face challenges, there are also many opportunities for growth in agriculture which the State must be ready and willing to support. As always, I appreciate the support of members of the Assembly from all parts of the State in restoring funding and advancing legislation to support the agricultural community. On behalf of New York's Agriculture Committee, I thank you for your leadership and continued encouragement and support in addressing these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Magee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William Magee  
Chairperson,  
Committee on Agriculture





**2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Members**

William Magee  
Chairman

**MAJORITY**

Barbara S. Lifton  
Aileen M. Gunther  
Michael R. Benedetto  
Alan Maisel  
Linda B. Rosenthal  
Addie J. Russell  
Harry B. Bronson  
Jose J. Rivera  
Michael A. Simanowitz  
Frank Skartados  
Didi Barrett  
Al Stirpe  
Angelo Santabarbara  
Luis Sepulveda  
James Skoufis  
Steven Otis

**MINORITY**

Kenneth D. Blankenbush, Ranking  
Marc W. Butler  
Clifford Crouch  
Gary D. Finch  
Stephen Hawley  
Peter D. Lopez

**STAFF**

Giovanni Warren, Assistant Secretary for Program & Policy  
Robert Stern, Principal Analyst  
Nashab Farhikhtah, Committee Assistant  
Teri Kleinmann, Associate Counsel  
Cindy Ceniviva, Executive Secretary

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE (S)
I. Committee Jurisdiction	5
II. 2013 Committee Accomplishments	
A. Supporting Producers and Sellers of New York Farm and Food Products	6-7
B. Preserving and Growing Our Farms	7-9
C. Animal Safety and Control	9-10
D. Other Legislation	11
E. Hearings/Roundtables	12
F. Agriculture Budget 2013-2014	13-14
III. 2014 Outlook	15
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION	16
APPENDIX B: CHAPTER LIST FOR THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FOR 2013	17-18
APPENDIX C: AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE BILLS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY IN 2013	19-20

## **I. Committee Jurisdiction**

The Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture is responsible for legislation that relates to the Agriculture and Markets Law, oversight of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Agriculture and Markets budget. The Agriculture Committee collaborates closely with institutions of higher education, such as Cornell University, to promote agriculture research and development through programs such as the Quality Milk Program and Integrated Pest Management. The Agriculture Committee works to ensure the viability of New York's farms, promote the state's agricultural products, support agricultural economic development and protect our state's farmland resources.

As part of its legislative and oversight functions, the Agriculture Committee investigates issues related to food inspections and safety, farmland protection, farm product sales and marketing, agribusiness licensing and regulation, the humane treatment of domesticated animals, kosher laws, and animal diseases.

The Agriculture Committee also provides support and counsel for agricultural-related legislation that is referred to other Assembly Committees, such as the Committees on Government Operations, Labor, Economic Development, Environmental Conservation and Energy.

## **II. 2013 Committee Accomplishments**

### **A. Supporting Producers and Sellers of New York Farm and Food Products**

New York State offers many advantages for food producers and processors, including proximity to farm fresh products, marketing programs and tax incentives. The Agriculture Committee places great importance on strengthening the state's leadership role in assisting farmers, food producers, retailers and food processors to better compete in rapidly changing, competitive marketplaces.

#### **1. Farm-to-Senior Program (Veto #277/A.2700, Magee)**

This bill would create the Farm-to-Senior Program to promote the purchase of fresh New York foods and food products by senior centers and other institutions for the aging under the jurisdiction of the Office for the Aging. The bill also directs the Office for the Aging to work with the Department of Agriculture and Markets to establish a promotional event to be known as "New York Golden Harvest: Seniors Week" to promote New York agriculture and foods to senior centers and other senior facilities. Studies have found that less than 40% of seniors meet federal dietary guidelines for fruit consumption and only 6% of those older than 60 meet the objective for vegetables.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that the bill would require the unplanned use of resources within each of the agencies, and should therefore be discussed in the context of the State budget.

#### **2. Strategic Farm & Food Product Development Coordinating Council (Veto #278/A.2701, Magee)**

This bill would require the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and the Commissioner of Economic Development to create the Strategic Farm and Food Product Development Coordinating Council composed of farmers, processors, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, food service businesses, academic experts and others. The Council would identify agricultural products that are in demand by consumers and food businesses and have the potential to be a growth industry for farmers. New York has had success doing this with Greek yogurt. The Council would also help identify available financial and technical assistance for interested producers and build relationships among farmers, processors, wholesalers, distributors, and state institutional entities such as schools and prisons in order to promote the use of New York-grown products.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that the bill would require the unplanned use of resources within each of the agencies, and should therefore be discussed in the context of the State budget.

#### **3. Dine: Pride of New York Program (Veto #276/A.2702, Magee)**

This bill would create the "Dine: Pride of New York" program for restaurants using and serving New York State food products. The bill is aimed at promoting restaurants and other food service establishments that use a threshold amount of ingredients grown and/or processed in New York, and also making it easier for consumers to find restaurants that use New York products. As there are over

7,000 restaurants in New York City alone, this bill could have a significant impact on the demand for New York State products.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that the bill was unnecessary because the Governor's Council on Food Policy already seeks to maximize the use of New York produced food and beverages and to strengthen the connections between local food and consumers.

**4. Shop: Pride of New York Program  
(Veto #258/A.3802, Magee)**

This bill would create the "Shop: Pride of New York" program for wholesale and retail sellers offering for sale a threshold amount of New York-grown and/or processed food items in order to allow consumers to better locate New York food products and encourage businesses to locally source. There are almost 23,000 retail food stores and about 2,600 food wholesalers licensed by the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that the bill was unnecessary because the Taste NY initiative already focuses on marketing and expanding New York's agricultural industry by highlighting Pride of New York.

**5. Grow: Pride of New York Program  
(A.5564, Magee)**

This bill would establish a program which would designate a nursery as a "Grow: Pride of New York" nursery, if not less than 25% of the horticulture products sold at the nursery are New York products. The program would also provide promotional materials and support for participating businesses. The horticulture and nursery industries in New York were 2<sup>nd</sup> in gross sales among agricultural commodities.

This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**6. Streamline licensing process for retail food chains  
(Chapter 260 of the Laws of 2013/A.7759, Santabarbara)**

The law defines the term "chain store" and provides a process by which all stores within a chain can re-apply for food processor licenses on the same date, the fee for which will be pro-rated based on the length of time between license issuance and expiration. This change reduces paperwork and administrative costs allowing these businesses to focus on improving their service and profitability.

## **B. Preserving and Growing Our Farms**

Over the last century, much of New York State's farmland has been lost to other uses. The NYS Comptroller reported that between 1997 and 2007, New York State lost 613,500 acres of farmland. Population growth and other development pressure results in competition for limited land resources driving up land costs and taxes, and sometimes results in local attempts to restrict agricultural practices. A 2009 survey measured real estate tax burdens by dividing property taxes by median home value and found that

seven of the top ten counties in the nation were rural New York counties in which agriculture was a major presence.

In response to these challenges New York State established Agricultural Districts which assess farmland based on its agricultural value and protect farms from onerous restrictions. The Agricultural Districts conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for production of food and other agricultural products. New York State has 237 Districts containing approximately 23,000 farms and 8.6 million acres. In addition the State's Farmland Protection Program provides funding to local communities to help preserve farms through purchase of development rights.

**1. Lowering the Assessment Cap  
(Chapter 385 of the Laws of 2013/A.165, Magee)**

This law will lower the existing "cap" from 10% to 2% on annual increases for an individual farm's agricultural assessment value in an Agricultural District and will provide farmers with relief from rapid growth in property taxes.

**2. Sustainable Agriculture Study  
(Veto #234/A.728, Rosenthal)**

This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and the Department of Economic Development to develop a long-term strategy in order to sustain farming and food production in New York State. Such a strategy would be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, soil and natural resources, food consumption needs, and land use. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets would submit a report listing the findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature within one year.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued the bill was unnecessary because of existing law requiring the Department to take similar actions to develop agriculture and the Governor's Council on Food Policy which also works to accomplish the goals of the bill.

**3. Agricultural District Notification  
(A.1393, Gunther)**

This bill would extend an existing requirement that sellers of property in an Agricultural District provide disclosure to buyers explaining that such property is located in or near an agricultural district, and the types of activities and impacts that might occur. The new requirement would apply to properties within 500 feet of an Agricultural District. The Department of Agriculture and Markets would assist county governments to make available agricultural district maps and information to help sellers and purchasers identify properties subject to the provisions of the proposed law. All county offices have this information available in electronic format.

This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**4. Access to Agricultural Land for New Farmers  
(A.7002-A, Magee)**

This bill would have the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and the Commissioner of the Office of General Services develop an inventory of State-owned land available for farming with the goal of making it available for purchase or lease by beginning farmers.

This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**5. Soil and Water Conservation Districts Farmland Protection  
(Chapter 150 of the Laws of 2013/A.7555, Magee)**

This law authorizes Soil and Water Conservation Districts to enter into direct contracts with local governments to provide services which they are called on to do with increasing frequency. In addition, the Districts will now be empowered to directly administer grants from the State agricultural and farmland protection program in the same manner as local farmland preservation not-for-profits. This change will help expedite projects in regions of the State where no other programs are available to administer the grants.

**C. Animal Safety and Control**

New York State residents care deeply for the health and safety of their pets and other animals. The Chairman prioritized legislation to strengthen animal welfare, improve oversight and regulation of pet sellers, and provide protection for purchasers of pets.

**1. Local Regulation of Pet Sales  
(Chapter 553 of the Laws of 2013/A.740-A, Rosenthal)**

This bill would authorize local governments to adopt laws to regulate the sale of pets in their communities to help protect their health and safety, prevent unwanted pets and overpopulation and encourage adoptions of stray and rescued animals.

**2. Banning Devocalization of Dogs and Cats  
(A.1204, Zebrowski)**

This bill would prohibit the devocalization of dogs and cats unless it is medically necessary to correct a physical condition that requires the procedure. The devocalization of animals is an invasive procedure that involves the surgical removal of a dog's or cat's vocal cords which could lead to serious and long-term respiratory and throat ailments.

This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Rules Committee.

**3. Improved Oversight of Pet Sellers  
(Chapter 256 of the Laws of 2013/A.1205-A, Paulin)**

This law requires that a hearing be held by the Department of Agriculture and Markets if a pet dealer licensee fails three consecutive inspections or fails three inspections within a three-year period. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets is authorized to take additional actions as deemed necessary. Prior to this change, the law did not give guidance as to when a hearing should be held and animals could be subjected to poor or even abusive conditions while pet dealers may have been given warnings after multiple inspections.

**4. Training for Dog Control Officers  
(Veto #255/A.1657-E, Rosenthal)**

This bill would require local dog control officers to complete a training program approved by the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The Department would identify and approve a cost-effective model program that officers could take on their own, with an option for an online course, and ensure accessibility for officers in all regions of the state. Local governments could implement their own programs with approval from the Department.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that the bill would require unfunded costs, and should therefore be discussed in the context of the State budget.

**5. Animal Shelter Cost Recovery  
(Chapter 531 of the Laws of 2013/A.5113-A, Paulin)**

This bill would assist animal shelters in filing to recover reasonable costs for caring for animals seized from individuals charged with certain animal cruelty and animal fighting offenses. These organizations are usually providing these services on behalf of local governments who are ultimately paying the bills. In cases of animal cruelty, animals are seized by law enforcement agents and placed in the care of shelters for the duration of criminal proceedings. Although those convicted of the crimes are liable for the costs, it can take months or longer to recover the funds and this bill would make the legal process to recover the funds easier.

**6. "Pet Lemon Law"  
(Chapter 251 of the Laws of 2013/A.5114-A, Paulin)**

This law strengthens the "Pet Lemon Law" by providing stronger protections for consumers, such as information about the source or wholesaler of the pet they purchase, and would allow consumers a longer period when they could return a pet that had certain severe medical problems. The existing law provided consumer protections for pet owners if their newly purchased pet was diagnosed with a congenital malformation, was unfit for purchase due to illness, or had a contagious or infectious disease.

## **D. Other Legislation**

### **1. Promoting Community Gardens (Chapter 528 of the Laws of 2013/A.3743, Cook)**

This bill would expand the powers of the Office of Community Gardens within the Department of Agriculture and Markets to better promote community gardens. Among the new types of activities that the Office of Community Gardens would be permitted to engage in are: assisting groups who want to form community gardens; better coordinating activities with school garden programs, food pantries and soup kitchens that provide food for the poor; and, encouraging better communication and sharing of resources between community garden groups and other programs, such as the “New York Harvest for Kids Week Program” and farm-to-school programs.

### **2. Creating an Advisory Board on Food Safety (A.4125, Cook)**

This bill would create an advisory board within the Department of Agriculture and Markets whose function it would be to advise the Department on ways to increase food safety precautions and inspection programs and recommend changes to administration and staffing levels of food safety enforcement activities. The proposed board would consist of nine voting members and four ex officio members.

This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

### **3. Coordination of Childhood Obesity Programs (Chapter 530 of the Laws of 2013/A.6628, Ortiz)**

This bill would more fully encourage the cooperative integration of existing programs designed to combat childhood obesity being operated by the Departments of Agriculture and Markets, Education, and Health.

### **4. Licensure of Exhibits or Entertainments on Fair Grounds (A.5360, Magee)**

This bill would clarify existing law relating to the activities permitted on county fairgrounds by: authorizing the local association of farmers to host exhibitions and entertainment on their grounds other than during fair week and store personal property on the grounds; clarifying that events held on fairgrounds shall not be subject to the approval of a local government, except when required to protect public health or safety; and, providing that local laws or ordinances shall not unreasonably prohibit or restrict activities on the fairgrounds.

This bill passed the Assembly and is currently in the Senate Agriculture Committee.

## E. Hearings/Roundtables

On December 10, 2013, the Committee held a hearing, "Promoting New York Farm Products," to review and examine policies and programs that promote New York farm products. New York State has been promoting New York foods and beverages through the "Pride of NY" program in the Department of Agriculture and Markets and this year through the TasteNY program. The Committee advanced legislation to expand existing promotion efforts by targeting senior centers, food service establishments that feature New York foods and retailers and wholesalers selling New York food products. The panel received testimony on the effectiveness and adequacy of the State's promotion efforts and how they could be enhanced.

In September, the Committee co-sponsored a roundtable with the Committee on Economic Development and the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources on the regulatory and legislative issues facing New York State distillers and ways to enhance the artisan beverage industry.

In May, the Committee co-sponsored a roundtable with the Assembly's Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, "Effectiveness of Agricultural Districts Law in Suburban Communities" which brought together representatives of farming and local governments to assist the Assembly in evaluating how well the Agricultural Districts Law is working in suburban counties. Participants discussed the barriers to forming an Agricultural District in counties with higher population densities and lower acreage of farmland.

Also in May, the Committee co-sponsored another roundtable with the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources on ways to enhance the New York State wine and alcoholic farm beverage industry.

## F. Agriculture Budget 2013-2014

The 2013-2014 Enacted Budget increased support for agriculture. The Legislature restored funding for some programs to 2012 levels in response to proposed reductions. Other programs received additional funding compared to 2012 levels, and several new initiatives were funded for purposes such as NYS Christmas tree promotion, Berry Fruit Fly control, and assisting Turfgrass farms' efforts to improve environmental protection.

<b>Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)</b>	<b>Adds</b>	<b>Restorations</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Marketing and Research Support</i>			
NYS Apple Association	\$ 794,000		\$1,000,000
NYS Christmas Tree Growers	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000
NYS Maple Producers Association		\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Promotion of Agricultural Arts (Fairs)			\$ 340,000
Wine and Grape Foundation	\$ 287,000		\$1,000,000
<i>Farmer Support Services</i>			
Agribusiness Child Development Program			\$6,521,000
Dairy Excellence			\$ 150,000
Farm Family Assistance	\$ 200,000		\$ 584,000
Farm Viability Institute	\$ 300,000	\$ 821,000	\$1,521,000
Geneva Seed Inspection Program			\$ 128,000
Pro Dairy Program /Dairy Profit Teams	\$ 220,000		\$1,042,000
Tractor Rollover Protection Program		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
<i>Animal and Plant Health</i>			
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Avian Disease			\$ 252,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Cattle Health			\$ 360,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Johnes Disease			\$ 480,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Quality Milk			\$1,174,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Rabies (Includes Long Island Rabies funding)		\$ 100,000	\$ 250,000
Eastern Equine Encephalitis		\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
NYS Berry Growers Fruit Fly Control	\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000
North Country Vaccination	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000
<i>Education</i>			
Agriculture Educators Association			\$ 66,000
Agriculture in the Classroom			\$ 80,000
Future Farmers of America			\$ 192,000
<i>Environmental Management</i>			
Integrated Pest Management			\$ 500,000
Turf Grass Environmental Stewardship	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000
<i>Regional Programs</i>			
Genesee County Agriculture Academy	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000

Island Harvest	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Long Island Farm Bureau	\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000
North Country Agriculture Development			\$ 500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,596,000</b>	<b>\$1,296,000</b>	<b>\$21,010,000</b>

### **III. 2014 Outlook**

In 2013, the Committee continued its work to expand markets for New York agricultural products, improve the important benefits provided by Agricultural Districts, enhance consumer safety, and protect our pets and other animals. Increased consumer demand for New York agricultural products is leading to the need for expansion of production. The Agriculture Committee looks forward to capitalizing on the opportunities for growth in the coming year.

Policy and programs for 2014 may include: increased development of markets, especially in the State's most populous areas, for New York farm products and assistance for farmers and food entrepreneurs who want to sell there; support for expansion of export opportunities as more consumers recognize the high quality of New York foods, wine, beer and spirits; promoting farm viability and profitability; protecting farmland; and, continuing to assist farmers who want to expand or begin farming. The Committee looks forward to identifying barriers hindering growth, and potential policy solutions to problems facing our farmers, by working with our partners in the agricultural community, consumers, food businesses, academia and other interested parties.

**APPENDIX A**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS**  
**REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
**DURING THE 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills
<u>Bills Reported With or Without Amendment</u>			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee (Favorable)	2		2
To Ways & Means	16		16
To Codes	10		10
To Rules	0		0
To Judiciary	0		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>28</b>
<u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u>			
To Cities	1		1
To EnCon	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>
<u>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</u>			
Substituted		6	6
Recalled		0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<u>Bills Held for Consideration with a Roll-Call Vote</u>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<u>Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee</u>	<b>125</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>142</b>
<u>Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken</u>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<u>Motions to Discharge Lost</u>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD</b>	<b>6</b>		

**APPENDIX B**  
**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**  
**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE CHAPTERS**

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.165	Magee	This law will decrease the allowable base percentage change in agriculture assessment value from ten percent to two percent of the preceding year. <b>Chapter 385 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.740-A	Rosenthal	This bill would authorize local governments to adopt laws to regulate the sale of pets in their communities to help protect their health and safety. <b>Chapter 553 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.1205-A	Paulin	This law requires that a hearing be held by the Department of Agriculture and Markets if a pet dealer licensee fails three consecutive inspections or fails three inspections within a three-year period. <b>Chapter 256 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.3743	Cook	This bill would expand the powers of the Office of Community Gardens within the Department of Agriculture and Markets to better promote community gardens. <b>Chapter 528 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.5113-A	Paulin	This bill would authorize District Attorneys to file a petition on behalf of impounding organizations seeking security for reasonable costs for caring for seized animals from individuals convicted of certain animal cruelty and animal fighting offenses. <b>Chapter 531 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.5114-B	Paulin	This law strengthens the "Pet Lemon Law" by providing stronger protections for consumers, such as information about the source or wholesaler of the pet they purchase. <b>Chapter 251 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.6628	Ortiz	This bill would more fully encourage the cooperative integration of existing programs operated by the Department of Agriculture and Markets, Education, and Health designed to combat childhood obesity. <b>Chapter 530 of the Laws of 2013</b>
A.7555	Magee	This law authorizes Soil and Water Conservation Districts to enter into direct contracts with local governments to provide services. <b>Chapter 150 of the Laws of 2013</b>

A.7759	Santabarbara	This law defines the term 'chain store' and provides a process by which all stores within a chain can re-apply for food processor licenses on the same date. <b>Chapter 260 of the Laws of 2013</b>
--------	--------------	--

**APPENDIX C**  
**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**  
**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
**BILLS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY**

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.728	Rosenthal	This bill would direct the commissioners of Agriculture and Markets and Economic Development to study and develop a long-term strategy for sustaining farming and food production in New York State. <b>Veto message # 234</b>
A.1204	Zebrowski	This bill would prohibit the devocalization of cats and dogs unless it is medically necessary to correct a physical condition that requires the procedure.
A.1393	Gunther	This bill would require purchasers of real property within 500 feet of the boundary of an agricultural district to be provided with disclosure of farming activities within such district.
A.1657-E	Rosenthal	This bill would require the establishment and implementation of a training program for dog control officers. <b>Veto message # 255</b>
A.2700	Magee	This bill would establish a farm-to-senior program to facilitate and promote the purchase of New York farm products by senior centers and other institutions for the aging. <b>Veto message # 277</b>
A.2701	Magee	This bill would create the Strategic Farm and Food Product Development Coordinating Council. <b>Veto message # 278</b>
A.2702	Magee	This bill would direct the commissioner of agriculture and markets to establish a Dine: Pride of New York program for restaurants which use ingredients produced in New York State. <b>Veto message # 276</b>
A.3802	Magee	This bill would create the Shop: Pride of New York program for food sellers which sell foods produced in New York State. <b>Veto message # 258</b>
A.4125	Cook	This bill would create a nine member advisory board within the Department of Agriculture and Markets on food safety and inspection programs.

A.5360	Magee	This bill would clarify existing law relating to the activities permitted on county fairgrounds by authorizing exhibitions and entertainment other than during fair week and would allow the storage of personal property on the grounds.
A.5564	Magee	This bill would establish a Grow: Pride of New York program for nursery dealers which use products produced in New York State.
A.7002-A	Magee	This bill would have the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and the Commissioner of the Office of General Services develop an inventory of State-owned land available for farming with the goal of making it available for purchase or lease by beginning farmers