

Supporting farms and protecting the environment

Assemblywoman Russell was again named to the Farm Bureau Circle of Friends. Every year, the Farm Bureau examines legislators' voting records on agricultural issues and support of farming-related issues. Assemblywoman Russell was named as a "friend" for the 4th year for her tireless advocacy on behalf of North Country farms.

Additionally, Assemblywoman Russell was awarded a 98 percent rating by the Environmental Advocates of New York. Much like the Farm Bureau, this group examines votes on bills that could help or harm our air, land, water, wildlife and health.

"I am honored to once again receive the support of the Farm Bureau and the Environmental Advocates of New York. Supporting farmers and protecting our beautiful and valuable natural resources go hand in hand. I have always known that farmers are responsible stewards of the land. Striking a balance between agriculture production and ensuring a clean environment for the future is a goal so many of us share. These distinctions do not belong to me, rather they highlight the North Country's exceptional qualities."

— Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell

What's inside:

- A message from Assemblywoman Addie Russell
- News from this year's legislative session and around the North Country
- "Learn What's in Your Backyard" Challenge

Assemblywoman Addie Russell

News and Events

Assemblywoman Addie Russell's 3rd Annual North Country Department Store

Buying local grows our economy!



Attention early-bird shoppers!

Back for its third year, the North Country Department Store is your chance to stock up on locally made products. Come support over 50 local businesses, including artisans, farmers, antique dealers and craftspeople just in time for the holiday season.

Saturday, Nov. 2

Indian River Middle School
Philadelphia
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.





Leading the state's "Buy Local" campaign

Having launched my "Rediscover Your Backyard" initiative several years ago, I am proud to have supported the creation of the Shop: Pride of New York and Dine: Pride of New York initiatives, which aim to promote stores and restaurants that sell or use New York-grown produce. I also worked to reform outdated regulations so that local wineries would be able to sell their products at area farmers markets.

North Country-raised and processed poultry certified for retail sale

The North Country Mobile Poultry Unit is open for business. This mobile processing unit – the first USDA-approved unit of its kind in the nation – allows small farmers to sell local, naturally raised poultry designated as organic and humanely handled. By obtaining USDA certification, farmers will be able to expand their businesses by selling to large institutions like local schools, universities, grocery stores and other businesses. The MPU is expected to be able to process over 100,000 chickens annually. They are in operation just in time for the upcoming holidays. For information, contact (315) 869-1420 or email northcountrypastured@gmail.com.

Fighting to control taxes for North Country farms

The agriculture industry is the backbone of our community and supporting local farmers remains a top priority. This year, I helped to control taxes for farmers by capping increases in agricultural assessments at 2 percent annually. More predictable taxes will enable farmers to continue producing great North Country products and reinvest in their farms.

Community kitchen provides new business opportunities

The 1,500-square-foot kitchen at the Madison Barracks complex in Sackets Harbor is now available to small-business owners wanting to expand production. The kitchen will be especially beneficial to growers interested in selling packaged vegetables and fruits – specialty food artisans – and small bakeries that need access to a large kitchen. The kitchen is equipped with gas ranges, ovens, refrigerated and dry storage space and a loading dock. For information, contact (315) 646-3374.

Production of wine, beer and distilled beverages booming in North Country

There are nearly 500 wineries, breweries, distilleries and cideries in New York, and the North Country is home to a growing number of them. New Yorkers can enjoy the many wineries along the Thousand Islands Wine Trail, enjoy samplings of spirits at the area's new distillery or taste an eclectic selection of micro-brewed beer across the North Country. The growth of these businesses is a signal that the entrepreneurial spirit that makes northern New York special is alive and well. Agriculture, the cornerstone of our economy, is an industry that relies upon grapes, hops and corn to make valuable products. These businesses are leveraging our agricultural assets to boost our local retail and tourism sectors. It is a win-win situation for our local economy. More information on these establishments is available at www.taste.ny.gov.

The "Learn What's in Your Backyard" Challenge is part of Assemblywoman Russell's "Rediscovering Your Backyard" initiative. It encourages children to learn local history by exploring museums, state parks, battlefields and other historic sites in the North Country. To participate in the program, students from elementary to high school must visit three sites and provide an age-appropriate summary of the visit. **Feel free to include visits made over the summer.**

Those who submit a form will receive a **New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit** for their participation.

Possible locations include, but are not limited to:

Jefferson County

- Antique Boat Museum
- Philadelphia Historical Society
- Jefferson County Historical Society Museum
- Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site

St. Lawrence County

- Fort de la Présentation
- St. Lawrence County Historical Association Silas Wright House
- TAUNY
- Remington Museum



Please fill in completely. Contact information will be used solely for contacting challenge participants. Those who participate will receive a New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit.

Student Information:

Name: _____ Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

Home Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Site Information:

Site 1 Name: _____ Date Visited: _____

Site 2 Name: _____ Date Visited: _____

Site 3 Name: _____ Date Visited: _____

Please don't forget to attach your summary and return to: Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell
Jefferson County District Office: Dulles State Office Building, Suite 210, 317 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601
St. Lawrence County District Office: 70 Main St., Suite 1, Canton, NY 13617

CLIP AND RETURN