



**New York State Assembly**

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015

A dark blue silhouette of a city skyline, including various skyscrapers and buildings, positioned behind the large white text of the title.

Committee on

**Agriculture**

William Magee, Chairperson



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN  
Joint Legislative Commission on  
Dairy Industry Development

WILLIAM MAGEE  
Member of Assembly  
121st Assembly District

CHAIRMAN  
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Banks  
Higher Education  
Local Governments

December 15, 2015

Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 349  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

As Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture, I respectfully submit to you the 2015 Annual Report. I have outlined the Committee's significant legislation, as well as the Committee's priorities for the upcoming 2016 Session.

The agricultural industry is of the utmost importance to New York State. A 2015 report by Farm Credit East estimates that the total impact on State economic output from agricultural, commercial fishing and forestry production, food processing, and off-farm services was approximately \$48 billion and generated 197,745 jobs. Dairy processing alone generated an estimated \$23 billion in output and created over 49,000 jobs. The 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture shows that nearly 23 percent of New York's land area, over 7.1 million acres, is used by more than 35,000 farms to produce a diverse array of food products such as dairy, grains, fruits, vegetables, and maple syrup.

New York is the leading producer in the United States of Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, and cabbage, and a top 10 producer in the production of apples, grapes, maple syrup, cheese, onions, sweet corn, and tomatoes, amongst other fruits and vegetables. Although New York has high production of several farm products, the typical farm is family-owned and managed, and is less than half the size of the national average. Additionally, New York has the third-largest number of certified organic farms in the nation.

Throughout the 2015 Legislative Session, the Committee remained dedicated to promoting policies that would help New York's farms, approving legislation that passed both houses of the Legislature to provide financial support to new and beginning farmers, and establish programs providing technical assistance and training. The Committee was also successful in passing several animal protection bills that would strengthen animal welfare.

This year's State budget was very supportive of the agriculture industry. Compared to 2014, the Legislature added nearly \$5 million in funding for new and existing programs. Agriculture budget language also repealed several nuisance license fees, which would provide relief to applicants and licensees and create a more agribusiness friendly environment in the State.

While farming continues to face challenges, there are also many opportunities for growth that the State must be ready and willing to support. As always, I appreciate the support of members of the Assembly in restoring funding and

advancing legislation to support the agricultural community. On behalf of New York State Assembly's Committee on Agriculture, 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 fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Magee  
Chairperson,  
Committee on Agriculture

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**2015 ANNUAL REPORT  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

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Chairman

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Katherine Kurtessis, Committee Assistant  
Cindy Ceniviva, Executive Secretary

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

## **II. 2015 Committee Accomplishments**

### **A. Support for New York's Farmers**

New York State offers many programs and policies that assist farmers, including New York Agricultural Districts, marketing programs, training, and research. As the market and demand for agricultural products increases, it is important that the State supports farmers by improving their opportunities for technological and economic productivity. The Committee on Agriculture places great importance on assisting farmers and food producers to better participate, grow, and compete in rapidly changing, competitive marketplaces.

#### **1. Agricultural Districts: Log-Grown Woodland Mushrooms (Chapter 249 of the Laws of 2015/A.2454, Magee)**

The harvesting of "actively managed log-grown woodland mushrooms" is a growing field of agriculture that is not specifically recognized within the Agriculture and Markets Law. Farms are cultivating and growing these mushrooms to be sold at local farmers' markets and other outlets. To support these farmers this law will ensure that this type of farming qualifies for the benefits of agricultural districts, which includes right-to-farm protections and reduced assessment for land used in agricultural production.

This law will explicitly require that the mushrooms must be actively cultivated and managed to qualify. Wild mushrooms would not qualify.

#### **2. Supporting Farmers Age Sixty or Older (Chapter 155 of the Laws of 2015/A.5153, Barrett)**

This law will modify an existing law, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Office for the Aging to evaluate the programs and services offered by the Department to ensure they support the needs of farmers who are considered seniors. This law will lower the defined age of a senior from 62 to 60 and continue to address the unique needs and challenges of aging farmers.

#### **3. Federal Food Safety Compliance Program (Veto #195/A.7062, Magee)**

The federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was passed in 2010 and gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) broad powers to regulate the way foods are grown, harvested, and processed. Many farmers, especially small family farms, are concerned about the costs and difficulty of complying with the new law and regulations. There is a need for ongoing education, information, and technical assistance, and some farms may need to modify practices and infrastructure to comply with new requirements. This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to establish a federal food safety compliance program to provide a coordinated approach to help farmers comply, using partners such as Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Department of Agriculture and Markets would work with the Department of Economic Development to identify sources of funding for technical assistance, infrastructure, or equipment projects.

#### **4. Improving the Agricultural District Law (A.8082, Magee)**

This bill would streamline the year-long process for counties to create and review agricultural districts. Agricultural Districts are voluntarily created at the county level by farmer initiative. Farms within a district receive lower property assessments, as well as protections from local laws, nuisance lawsuits, and development projects that could threaten the agricultural character of the area.

Though many counties have already created such districts, they have to undergo a periodic comprehensive review and this bill would eliminate or update some redundant requirements for notice, hearings and reporting, as well as eliminate requirements that are no longer in practice or found to never have been used. For example, instead of the current requirement for both the county planning board and county agricultural and farmland protection board to conduct a hearing and report to the county legislature during creation of a District, the agricultural and farmland protection board would coordinate the process with input from the planning board. Notice to farmers and affected municipalities would be improved by requiring notice of a district review on the county website and in first class mailings to municipal officials. The schedule for review would be fixed at eight years instead of the current options of eight, twelve and twenty years since no county has ever used the longer periods.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets would be authorized to regularly update information and assistance available to counties undergoing District review and provide assistance to the Department of Taxation and Finance in training local assessors and other officials who determine agricultural assessments and tax levies. The bill would also clarify agricultural definitions for farm woodland and impermanent structures used for grapes or hops to ensure that local assessors are aware of what qualifies for tax exemptions or reduced assessments.

## **B. Support for Beginning Farmers**

Agriculture is an important sector of New York's economy, but is also a source of pride for many New Yorkers who value quality, locally grown products. Unfortunately, this industry cannot continue to grow if people find it difficult to access farmland and break into the industry.

The Committee on Agriculture has made the support of beginning farmers a priority by approving legislation to make farmland more accessible and providing loans and grants to help beginner farmers get started.

### **1. Access to Viable Agricultural Land for New and Beginning Farmers (Veto #201/A.1571, Magee)**

This bill would emphasize assistance for new and beginning farmers in existing state law. It would require the State's Advisory Council on Agriculture to provide advice to state agencies regarding tax, financial assistance, and other policies and programs that could address the needs of beginning farmers and the issues they face related to the transfer of ownership of farms. It would also encourage the identification of properties owned by the State that are viable for farming and could be sold or leased for that purpose. This information would then be made available to those interested in purchasing or leasing those properties.

### **2. Local Government Farmland Protection Planning (Chapter 248 of the Laws of 2015/A.2369, Barrett)**

Current law allows municipalities to develop agricultural and farmland protection plans, which may include location of land to be protected and an analysis of the land to be protected. The plans may review the value of the land to the agricultural economy of the municipality, the open space value, consequences of possible conversion, level of conversion pressures, and include a description of activities, programs, and strategies to promote continued agricultural use. This law will amend the current law to add that the county's plan would also include a description of "efforts to support the successful transfer of agricultural land from existing owners to new owners and operators, especially new and beginning farmers."

### **3. Farm Investment Fund Program (A.2417-B, Santabarbara)**

This bill would have the Department of Agriculture and Markets work with Empire State Development to create the Farm Investment Fund to provide grants to farmers for the purposes of updating and improving their farm

and farm practices. Investments could include infrastructure, equipment, marketing of farm products, or improving agricultural environmental management. The competitive process for awarding grants of up to \$50,000 would consider specific criteria such as plans for growth and sales development, agricultural degrees, and work experience. Preference could be given to veterans, those transferring a farm to the next generation, and those seeking to expand their farm. Such a program would allow farmers to expand their participation in New York's growing agricultural market.

## **C. Animal Safety and Control**

New York State residents care deeply for the health and safety of their pets and other animals. The Committee prioritized legislation to strengthen animal welfare and protect and assist pet owners and the public.

### **1. Prohibit Devocalization on Dogs and Cats (A.1679, Zebrowski)**

Devocalization is an invasive surgical procedure that can cause irreparable damage to an animal's respiratory system. This bill would prohibit devocalization surgery on dogs and cats unless it is performed by a licensed veterinarian when medically necessary to treat a physical illness, disease, injury, or congenital abnormality that is causing the animal physical pain or harm. In the event that such surgery was deemed medically necessary, the person performing a devocalization would be required to include in the animal's treatment record information relating to the procedure and would also be required to annually submit the number of devocalizations performed to the Commissioner of Education.

In the event that this surgery was performed in an unauthorized capacity, any person that performs or knowingly causes the surgery to be performed would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year of imprisonment and a fine of up to \$5000. The court would also be authorized to require a course on the humane treatment of animals, cease ownership of a dog or cat, and/or require the surrender of the animal. Further, the veterinarian who performs the procedure would be subject to the revocation of his or her license.

### **2. Trapping, Neutering, Vaccinating, and Returning Feral Cats (Veto #203/A.2778, McDonald)**

This bill would authorize up to 20 percent of the State's Animal Population Control Program fund balance to be utilized for grants to local organizations for the purpose of trapping, neutering, vaccinating, and then returning the feral cats to where they were trapped. Grant recipients may include humane societies, animal welfare organizations, and animal shelters. Research has demonstrated that these efforts are more effective at the long-term reduction of feral cat populations than current efforts to trap and euthanize.

### **3. Hunting Dogs (Veto #293/A.7220-A, Gunther)**

This bill would distinguish authorized hunting dogs from being considered dogs "running at large" under the law. At times, dogs legally engaged in the act of hunting are mistaken for being at large, then seized by dog control officers and taken to a shelter and/or the owner is fined. This bill would amend Agriculture and Markets Law to define the term "hunting dog" as used in Environmental Conservation Law and permit hunting dogs to be deemed under the control of the owner if the owner can demonstrate that the dog was released on land where hunting is permitted, the owner was on hunting land and that he or she is authorized to hunt with dogs.

## **D. Protecting and Engaging Consumers**

This year the Committee on Agriculture approved measures to make food safety violations available online, accurately label birch and walnut syrup, and study the barriers to entry for retail food operations. These proposals would enhance the well-being of New York State residents by keeping them informed and improving the marketplace of New York State.

### **1. Internet Posting of Food Safety and Consumer Protection Violations (A.4436, Silver)**

This bill would require the online posting of any violation resulting from an inspection conducted by the Departments of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Food Safety and Inspection for the most recent three years for which data is available. This includes inspections of retail or wholesale entities involved in handling food including, but not limited to, retail food stores, food warehouses, food manufacturers, and food processors. Posting the inspection results on a State website, such as the Department's or Open New York, would provide the public easier access to violation information, especially for food purchased when a consumer does not physically visit the establishment where it was produced or sold.

### **2. Increase Opportunities for Seniors to Participate in Community Gardens (Chapter 154 of the Laws of 2015/A.5154, Magee)**

This law will make a technical change to Chapter 525 of the Laws of 2014, which expanded the goals of the State's Community Garden Task Force to increase opportunities for seniors to participate in community gardens. It will deem senior centers and the elderly as being eligible for assistance, support, and cooperation from the Department of Agriculture and Markets' Office of Community Gardens. The age of a senior will be lowered from 62 to 60 years old to conform to the standard used by the State Office of the Aging.

### **3. Require Labeling of Imitation Birch and Walnut Syrups (Chapter 252 of the Laws of 2015/A.5155-A, Magee)**

This law will define and protect the identity of pure birch and walnut syrups or sugars and require labeling of ingredients when a product contains other ingredients mixed in with the pure birch or walnut syrups or sugars. This legislation will help these new products succeed by protecting product identity, as well as protect consumers from buying lesser quality products.

### **4. Permit Issuance of Electronic Receipts for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Delivery (Chapter 304 of the Laws of 2015/A.6646, Magee)**

This law will allow receipts for the delivery of liquefied petroleum gas to be issued electronically if the customer so chooses, in lieu of, or in addition to a hard copy of the receipt. Electronic methods will include cellular telephones, mobile telephones, computers, computer tablets, or any other personal electronic device.

### **5. Establish the Retail Food Stores in Underserved Areas Task Force (Veto# 244/A.7873, Woerner)**

This bill would create the Retail Food Stores in Underserved Areas Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force would address the barriers to the establishment or expansion of food retailers in underserved areas and how to better assist such businesses. For example, the Task Force may consider licensing and zoning regulations to determine if there would be a means to streamline these procedures. By addressing these issues, the State would support the expansion of retail to underserved rural or urban areas and better meet communities' needs for access to healthy and fresh food, as well as support New York's agricultural industry.

## **E. Hearings/Roundtables**

On July 28, 2015, the Assembly Committee on Agriculture co-sponsored a roundtable at SUNY Morrisville on “Expanding Livestock Farming in NYS: Building Capacity for the Marketplace” with the Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm, and Nutrition Policy. The roundtable reviewed and explored policies and programs that would optimize New York State’s capacity for expanding the infrastructure surrounding the production and sale of local meat. The discussion focused on the potential for: greater aggregate processing of in-state of animals currently shipped out of state; utilizing more local meat in schools by enhancing distribution through state warehouses and providing financial incentives for school purchases; expanding food hubs for meat processors and sellers; and, expanding grass-fed beef production on underutilized grasslands.

On November 24, 2015, the Committee held a budget oversight hearing on the 2015-16 State Budget for programs administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The hearing examined the overall impact, implementation and effectiveness of agriculture, food, and animal protection programs. The panel received testimony on several programs such as New York Farm Net, Trap-Neuter-Release for feral cats, Farm Viability, Farmland Protection and Farm-to-School and the need for enhancements to those programs and new initiatives in the 2016-17 budget.

On December 9, 2015 the Committee, the Assembly Committee on Education, and Task Force on Food, Farm, and Nutrition Policy co-sponsored a roundtable at Watertown, NY on “Farm-to-School Programs: Overcoming Barriers.” The roundtable brought together representatives of school food service, agriculture, food businesses, academia and relevant government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture and Markets, State Education Department and Office of General Services to examine barriers and opportunities for increasing sales of New York farm products to schools. The discussion focused on difficulties schools have in accessing local farm products such as higher costs, identifying suppliers, processing and distribution. Farmers expressed interest in investing in expanded production for schools provided the market was reliable. School food service and farm representatives advocated for increased state funding for school purchases of local farm products.

## F. Agriculture Budget 2015-2016

The 2015-16 Enacted State Budget increased support for agriculture in New York State. The Legislature included an estimated \$51 million for local assistance, \$120 million for State operations, and \$5.5 million for capital projects at the New York State Fair. The State budget also included a Special Infrastructure Account, which appropriated \$50 million for improvements to the State Fair, \$30 million for the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program, and \$20 million for the Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement Program

The Legislature demonstrated its interest in promoting and protecting agriculture by adding funding for programs related to marketing, research, education, and support. The final budget restored funding for programs such as the NYS Apple Growers and the Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, and added additional funds for programs such as NYS Maple Producers, and Farm Viability Institute.

An Add represents additional or new funding for a program compared to the previous year and a Restoration denotes the Legislature restoring funding to the previous year's level.

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget
		Adds	Restorations	
<i>Marketing and Research Support</i>				
Cornell University Honeybee Research			\$50,000	\$50,000
Cornell University Maple Research		\$20,000	\$105,000	\$125,000
Cornell University Onion Research			\$50,000	\$50,000
Cornell University Vegetable Research			\$100,000	\$100,000
Food Distribution Hubs		\$1,064,000		\$1,064,000
Geneva Hop Evaluation and Field Testing Program	\$40,000		\$160,000	\$200,000
NYS Apple Growers Association	\$206,000		\$544,000	\$750,000
NYS Apple Research and Development			\$500,000	\$500,000
NYS Christmas Tree Growers		\$5,000	\$120,000	\$125,000
NYS Corn and Soybean Growers			\$75,000	\$75,000
NYS Maple Producers Association		\$63,000	\$150,000	\$213,000
Cornell Precision Agriculture		\$100,000		\$100,000
Promotion of Agricultural Arts (Local Fairs)	\$340,000		\$160,000	\$500,000
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program		\$500,000		\$500,000
Taste NY	\$1,100,000			\$1,100,000
Wine and Grape Foundation	\$713,000	\$19,000	\$287,000	\$1,019,000
Wood Products Development Council			\$100,000	\$100,000

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget
		Adds	Restorations	
<i>Farmer Support Services</i>				
Agribusiness Child Development Program	\$6,521,000		\$1,000,000	\$7,521,000
Cornell Pro Dairy Program	\$822,000	\$378,000		\$1,200,000
Dairy Profit Teams	\$150,000			\$150,000
Dairy Profit Teams (FVI)			\$220,000	\$220,000
Farm Drain Tile Revolving Loan		\$500,000		\$500,000
Farm Family Assistance	\$384,000	\$200,000	\$216,000	\$800,000
Farm Viability Institute (FVI)	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,900,000
Geneva Seed Inspection Program	\$128,000			\$128,000
Tractor Rollover Protection Program		\$100,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
<i>Animal and Plant Health</i>				
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Animal Health Surveillance and Control	\$4,425,000		\$1,000,000	\$5,425,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Avian Disease	\$252,000			\$252,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Cattle Health	\$360,000			\$360,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Johnes Disease	\$480,000			\$480,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Quality Milk	\$1,174,000			\$1,174,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Rabies	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$460,000	\$610,000
Cornell Golden Nematode Program	\$62,000			\$62,000
Eastern Equine Encephalitis			\$175,000	\$175,000
North Country Vaccination			\$25,000	\$25,000
NYS Berry Growers Fruit Fly Control			\$320,000	\$320,000
<i>Education</i>				
Agriculture Educators Association	\$66,000			\$66,000
Agriculture in the Classroom	\$80,000			\$80,000
Farm-To-School	\$250,000			\$250,000
Future Farmers of America and Future Farmers of America Start-Up Funding	\$192,000	\$42,000	\$158,000	\$392,000
Genesee-Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming BOCES Agricultural Academy			\$100,000	\$100,000

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget
		Adds	Restorations	
Quality CAFO Planner Program		\$250,000		\$250,000
<i>Environmental Management</i>				
Integrated Pest Management	\$500,000			\$500,000
Turf Grass Environmental Stewardship			\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Regional Programs</i>				
Animal Care and Control of NYC			\$250,000	\$250,000
Grown on Long Island			\$100,000	\$100,000
Island Harvest			\$20,000	\$20,000
Suffolk SWCD Deer Fencing		\$200,000		\$200,000
North Country Agriculture Development			\$600,000	\$600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,695,000</b>	<b>\$3,941,000</b>	<b>\$8,445,000</b>	<b>\$31,081,000</b>

### **III. 2016 Outlook**

In 2015, the Standing Committee on Agriculture continued to expand opportunities for farmers, improve community access to local and healthy food, enhance consumer safety, protect agricultural land, and protect pets and other animals. The Committee on Agriculture expects in the coming year to continue its past successes in approving policies and programs that support beginning farmers, encourage the production and consumption of local foods, and assist in improving the food supply in urban and rural communities.

In addition, the Committee on Agriculture is committed to supporting the growth of the agricultural industry as a whole by expanding opportunities for farmers to process their products and sell to wholesale and retail food and beverage markets, including food stores, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants, as well as institutional buyers such as government agencies, schools, and universities.

The Committee on Agriculture approved several measures to protect the health and safety of consumers, animals, and pet owners in 2015 and expects these issues to continue to be a significant part of the Committee's mission in the coming year.

**APPENDIX A**  
**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS**  
**REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**  
**DURING THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills
<b><u>Bills Reported With or Without Amendment</u></b>			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee (Favorable)	5		5
To Ways & Means	8		8
To Codes	10		10
To Rules	3		3
To Judiciary	0		0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>26</b>
<b><u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u></b>			
To Economic Development	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
<b><u>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</u></b>			
Substituted		2	2
Recalled		0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Bills Held for Consideration with a Roll-Call Vote</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee</u></b>	<b>142</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>163</b>
<b><u>Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Motions to Discharge Lost</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD</b>	<b>5</b>		

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

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.2369	Barrett	This bill would encourage local governments to include support for the transfer of farmland to young and beginning farmers in their municipal plans. <b>Chapter 248 of the Laws of 2015</b>
A.2454	Magee	This bill would include actively managed log-grown woodland mushrooms within the meaning “crops, livestock, and livestock products” for purposes of provisions of law relating to agricultural districts. <b>Chapter 249 of the Laws of 2015</b>
A.5153	Barrett	Requires the Department of Agriculture and Markets to evaluate their support of farmers age 60 years and older. <b>Chapter 155 of the Laws of 2015</b>
A.5154	Magee	Encourages community-based organizations to increase opportunities for seniors age 60 years and older to participate in community gardens. <b>Chapter 154 of the Laws of 2015</b>
A.5155-A	Magee	This bill would define and protect the identity of pure birch or walnut syrups and sugars. <b>Chapter 252 of the Laws of 2015</b>
A.6646	Magee	This bill would provide for the issuance of receipts for the delivery of liquefied petroleum gas by electronic means. <b>Chapter 304 of the Laws of 2015</b>

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

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.1571	Magee	This bill would help beginning farmers find resources regarding purchase of farmland, as well as guide them in what farmland may potentially be available. <b>Veto #201</b>
A.1679	Zebrowski	This bill would restrict the performance of surgical devocalization on dogs and cats.
A.2417-B	Santabarbara	This bill would create the Farm Investment Fund.
A.2778	McDonald	This bill would authorize up to 20 percent of the State's Animal Population Control Program fund balance to be utilized for grants to local organizations for the purpose of trapping, neutering, vaccinating and returning feral cats to the area from which they were trapped. <b>Veto #203</b>
A.4436	Silver	This bill would require the online posting of any inspection violation found in the past three years by the Department of Agriculture and Markets' Division of Food Safety and Inspection.
A.7062	Magee	This bill would authorize the creation of a federal food safety compliance program, providing a coordinated approach to help farmers comply with new federal food safety laws. <b>Veto #195</b>
A.7220-A	Gunther	This bill would permit hunting dogs to be deemed under the control of the owner if the owner can demonstrate the dog was released on land where hunting is permitted and demonstrate that he or she is authorized to hunt with dogs. <b>Veto #293</b>
A.7873	Woerner	This bill would create the Retail Food Stores in Underserved Areas Task Force. <b>Veto #244</b>
A.8082	Magee	This bill would streamline and update the year-long process for counties to create and review agricultural districts.