

“Farming has always played an important role in our region’s economy. A renewed focus on agriculture is already showing positive results.”

– Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo

ASSEMBLYWOMAN

DONNA A.
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Greetings,

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County (CCE) reported that Broome County’s agricultural businesses and farms generate well over \$100 million in sales and investments annually. As one of our area’s largest industries, I’ve worked to promote local foods and agriculture as one part of our economic recovery. We’ve seen some exciting developments recently, and more good things are to come.

I’ve sponsored and promoted legislation to support the industrial hemp industry and in his 2017 State of the State address, Governor Cuomo identified the Southern Tier as a priority region for production. Also on the state level, we’ve passed legislation and loosened regulations to support and grow the craft beverage industry, which locally has become an integral part of our downtown revitalizations.

Broome CCE will soon open its Agriculture Development Center, serving as a resource and driver for local food and agricultural entrepreneurs. Work is also continuing on SUNY Broome’s Culinary School, which we announced last fall.

For many years, our local farmers did not receive the attention and recognition they deserved. Now, community leaders and your neighbors are working to support and develop them in ways we previously thought impossible. Agriculture is much more than growing the food we eat. It also provides new manufacturing opportunities and supports local restaurants that have helped bring our area back to life.

I’m doing my part to help this effort. In this mailer, you’ll find an update on some of the projects mentioned above. I hope you’ll find this information useful. As always, my office is available to provide any assistance and information you may need.

Sincerely,

Donna
Donna A. Lupardo



New York Leads the Way on Industrial Hemp

Last year, New York farmers planted the state's first industrial hemp crop in over 80 years. This year, farmers will plant hundreds more acres as we continue research into this versatile crop for medicinal, manufacturing, and marketing opportunities. On the state level, after years of advocacy, leaders have thrown their full support into making New York a national leader. In the 2017-18 state budget, we removed the cap on the number of licenses to grow hemp. We also opened the program up to individual farmers to partner with the Department of Agriculture & Markets to grow hemp. Gov. Cuomo convened the state's first Industrial Hemp Summit at Cornell University in April, which brought policy makers and industry leaders to discuss how to support this new agricultural asset.

I also sponsored and passed legislation with Sen. Tom O'Mara in June that classifies industrial hemp as an agricultural commodity, sets up a one stop informational website and hotline, convenes an industrial hemp workgroup to advise the state on the industry and prioritizes the crop as an economic driver for NY farmers. At the bill signing in July, the Governor announced \$10 million in funding to assist farmers in growing industrial hemp and to support processors. NYS is on the verge of breaking through as a national leader on hemp and has the potential to revitalize many family farms in our area and statewide. If you're interested in growing hemp, or know someone who is, you can find more information at the bottom of this page.



Assemblywoman Lupardo speaks at the inaugural Industrial Hemp Summit at Cornell University.



Announcing a partnership between Nanticoke Gardens, Binghamton University, and Southern Tier Hemp to grow hemp for BU's research project.

Broome Plants First Hemp Crop in 80 Years

The Governor announced in April that Binghamton University was awarded a license to research industrial hemp. The university's School of Pharmacy has partnered with Nanticoke Gardens in Union, to grow the hemp and Southern Tier Hemp, will be the processor and product developer. The pharmacy school plans to study cannabidiol (CBD), which has been used to treat seizures in young children, and for other medicinal applications such as pain relief.

Nanticoke Gardens has planted more than 15,000 hemp plants; and is looking to serve as a resource for other farmers during future growing seasons.

For more information on New York's Industrial Hemp program:

Website: <https://esd.ny.gov/industrial-hemp>

Phone: (877) 249-6841

Email: IndustrialHempNYS@agriculture.ny.gov

CCE Contact: Janice Degni 607-391-2660 ext. 414

Next Farm Trail this Fall

The Fall 2017 Open Farm Weekend will be
September 30th and October 1st, 10 A.M. – 4 P.M., rain or shine.

Visit ccebroomecounty.com for a map of participating farms.

Regional Farmers Market: Business is Booming

Farmers markets have always been a direct link between producer and consumer and have played a crucial role in growing farm businesses. The primary goal of the new Broome County Regional Farmers Market was to build on the success of local farmers markets and expand business even further. This winter there was a 50%-67% increase in market sales reported by Regional Market vendors as compared to the previous winter at their previous location (the MetroCenter); that equals close to half a million dollars in sales! Cornell Cooperative Extension estimates those sales generate an additional \$150,000- \$201,000 into the local economy. As the market continues to grow, so will our economy. The Commercial Kitchen at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market is also up and running! Preserving, baking, and cooking classes dot their calendar between the dates taken by value added producers and those using it as commissary preparation. Being that it's open 7 days a week, they are able to accommodate many alternative schedules. If you would like more information, please call Amy Willis at 607-772-8953 ext. 137.



The commercial kitchen at the Broome County Regional Farmers Market.



Agriculture Development Center: Ready to Help Businesses Grow

Last year, I secured \$750,000 to support the construction of the new Agriculture Development Center at CCE on Front Street. Incorporating the historic Cutler House, the center will serve as a major economic development catalyst for local agriculture. The center, which will open at the end of August, will include a Taste NY store allowing farmers and local businesses to sell throughout the week and increase the sale of local products. A large conference room and wraparound porch overlook the beautiful Botanic Garden. Conferences, distance learning, and training will be held at the center, bringing teams of people to Broome County and expanding the need for food systems practitioners.

Supporting the Craft Beverage Industry

NYS's craft beverage industry has exploded in recent years. According to Empire State Development, NY has 460 wineries, 278 breweries, 124 distilleries, and 35 cideries. The state has seen a 183% increase in craft beverage producers since 2011 and the estimated economic impact of craft beverages as of 2012 was \$27 billion. This year the Legislature passed a bill to allow farm distilleries to serve glasses of other NYS craft beverages, just as breweries and cideries are allowed. This bill was signed into law by the Governor on July 25th. Additionally, I sponsored and passed legislation to provide sales tax relief to our farm breweries, distilleries, and cideries; the bill exempts tastings in these venues from sales tax and brings them into parity with state wineries. By alleviating the tax burden from these small businesses, they will have additional funds to put back into their businesses and the local economy. This bill still needs to be signed by the Governor.



Assemblywoman Lupardo and the owners of Binghamton Brewing Co. at event in Albany promoting NY Craft Beverages.

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Convenient Farmers Markets

■ **Broome County Regional Farmers Market:** 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **(year-round)**; Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **(June through September)***

■ **Binghamton Westside Farmers Market:** Post 80, 76 Main St., Binghamton
Thursdays 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **(Ends in October)**

■ **Downtown Binghamton Farmers Market:** Collier St. Binghamton
Fridays 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. **(July 21st through October 27th)***

■ **Vestal Farmers Market:** Vestal Public Library, Vestal Parkway
Wednesdays and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **(Memorial Day through November 22nd)**

■ **Endicott Farmers Market:** 300 Lincoln Ave., Endicott
Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **(June 15th through Last Week of September)**

■ **Highland Park Farmers Market:** 801 Hooper Road
Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **(June 27th through September 30th)**

To see if you are eligible for FreshConnect benefits visit:
freshconnect.ny.gov



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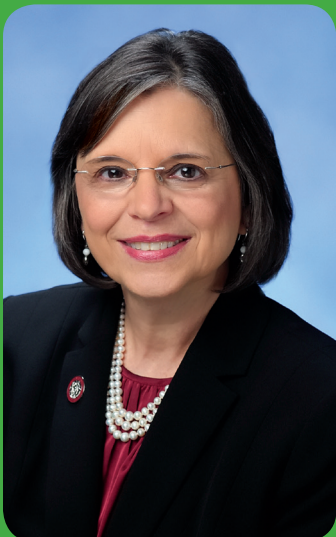
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NEWS

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**Food and agriculture
are playing a major
role in revitalizing
our local economy.
Look inside to
learn more.**