

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



CARL E. HEASTIE, SPEAKER  
DONNA A. LUPARDO, CHAIR

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**  
**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEES  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce and Industry  
Higher Education  
Rules  
Transportation

DONNA A. LUPARDO  
Member of Assembly  
123<sup>rd</sup> District

December 15, 2021

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

Dear Speaker Heastie,

As Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture, I respectfully submit to you the 2021 Annual Report. I have outlined the Committee's significant legislation, as well as the Committee's priorities for the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session.

New York is the leading agricultural state in the Northeast, as documented in a 2020 report by Farm Credit East, which estimated that the total impact on State economic output from agricultural, commercial fishing and forestry production, food processing and off-farm services was approximately \$47 billion and supported 210,000 jobs. The 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture shows that over 6.9 million acres, about 20% of the state's land mass, is used by more than 33,000 farms to produce a diverse array of food products such as dairy, grains, fruits, vegetables and maple syrup. Dairy was still the largest sector by dollar value of farm sales, accounting for 47%. New York has the third-largest number of certified organic farms in the nation, increasing by over 60% since the 2012 census. While New York State is a national leader for many farm products, the typical farm is small, less than 200 acres, and 96% are family-owned earning an average annual net income of \$42,000.

Although New York's agricultural economy is significant it faces many challenges including higher costs for labor, energy, transportation, and other operating costs compared to the states and countries that New York farmers compete with. This year, farmers were still recovering from the effects of the pandemic disruptions to food supply chains that began in 2020. In response to these disruptions and the dramatic growth of food insecurity, the State funded the Nourish NY program over the last two years with \$85 million to purchase surplus farm products from our farmers and distribute them to thousands of food-insecure households across the state that experienced loss of jobs and income. Our farmers went beyond the Nourish program and donated and delivered food to struggling communities during challenging times. The Committee also passed a bill that established the Nourish program in law.

Throughout the 2021 Legislative Session, the Committee remained dedicated to promoting policies that would help New York's farms, food businesses, consumers and animals. The Committee advanced legislation that passed both houses of the Legislature to improve and maintain the health of agricultural soils to reduce impacts of climate change; examine how to better connect farmers and urban, suburban, and rural consumers, especially food insecure households and students in school; promote the marketing of local farm products such as wool and hemp fiber; and advance bills to protect race horses and pets.

Animal protection laws are an important component of the Committee's work, and the Committee remains committed to animal welfare. There are close to 50 state agriculture laws related to care and protection of animals, including the crimes of abuse, neglect, and animal fighting; protection for companion animals kept outside or left in cars; restrictions on cosmetic veterinary procedures; animal care standards for pet sellers and pet groomers; and regulation of animal control, dog licensing, and the care and disposition of lost, stray, or injured animals by local governments and shelters.

In addition to approving legislation described in this report, the Legislature provided historic levels of funding, \$55.8 million for local assistance, for research and promotion programs that provide support and services directly to farmers. This report also includes more detailed information about agriculture spending.

This year the legislature approved the legal cultivation, processing and sale of adult-use cannabis and the Committee successfully advocated for provisions in the law to ensure access for small farmers and included farmers in the social equity plan for new entrants into this industry. We have a vibrant hemp industry in New York and cannabis offers another economic option for new and existing farmers

While farming continues to face challenges, there are also opportunities for growth as consumers and businesses recognize the importance of having access to local food. The State must be ready and willing to support these opportunities through policies and programs. One of my primary goals as Chair is to make sure legislators from around the State continue to support our hardworking farmers who supply us with the best food and drink in the world.

I would like to thank the members of the Agriculture Committee, the rest of my Assembly colleagues, and all the agriculture groups in the state for supporting our requests for funding in the budget and advancing legislation that is essential to 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 cursive script that reads "Donna A. Lupardo".

Donna A. Lupardo  
Chair,  
Committee on Agriculture

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

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Donna Lupardo  
Chair

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**STAFF**

Giovanni Ramirez Warren, Assistant Secretary for Program & Policy  
Robert Stern, Principal Analyst  
Sarah Klein, Counsel  
Nicole VanAuken, Executive Secretary  
Amy Abbati, Committee Clerk

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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 helping to craft the Department's budget. The Committee collaborates closely with institutions of higher education and other organizations to foster agriculture research and development through programs such as the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Center at Cornell and the New York Farm Viability Institute. The Committee also works with farmers and their representatives to develop policies and programs to promote the State's agricultural products, support the growth of agricultural, food and beverage businesses, ensure a safe food supply including healthy livestock, preserve our State's farmland resources and protect the welfare of our companion animals.

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

Agricultural-related legislation is often considered by other Assembly Committees, such as the Committees on Ways and Means, Codes, Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, Labor, Consumer Affairs, and Energy, and the Committee provides input and counsel to those committees to make sure that agricultural interests are considered.

## **II. 2021 Committee Accomplishments**

### **A. Support for New York's Farms and Food Businesses**

New York State offers many programs and policies that assist farmers and related food businesses, including New York Agricultural Districts, marketing programs, training and research. Our experience during the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the need to strengthen New York's farm and food processing sectors to reduce our dependence on food supplies from outside the State. As New York's consumer demand for local agricultural products increases, it is important that the State continues to provide the tools and support for our farmers to maximize their 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. Custom Operators (Chapter 282 of the Laws of 2021/A.1889-A Lupardo)**

This law provides individuals or entities performing agricultural practices on behalf of a farm owner or operation with the same authorization under the Right-to-Farm section of Agricultural Districts Law as a farm owner or operator to request an opinion from the Commissioner of Agriculture on whether local land use laws or regulations unreasonably restrict agriculture practices.

#### **2. Beech Syrup (Chapter 195 of the Laws of 2021/A.4690 Lupardo)**

This law prohibits the manufacture and sale of beech syrup or sugar that was not made from pure beech sap or syrup and prohibits the manufacture and sale of beech sugar or syrup mixed with other sugars or syrups or substances without branding or labeling the product with all the ingredients. Similar provisions in law apply to the manufacturing and sale of maple, beech and walnut syrups and sugars.

#### **3. Animal and Plant Fiber (Chapter 285 of the Laws of 2021/A.5380-B Lupardo)**

This law authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development, to assist in the promotion, marketing and sale, both within and outside the state, of New York State animal and plant fiber and products made from fiber such as wool or hemp. This assistance includes, but is not limited to, inclusion in programs such as the New York State Grown and Certified Program, and the development of educational materials for use with Cooperative Extension and at fairs.

#### **4. Soil Health (Chapter 735 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #102/A.5386-A Lupardo)**

This law requires the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee to encourage agricultural producers in urban, suburban and rural communities to improve and maintain the health of farm soils using soil health practices. The Department will also be required to develop voluntary soil health standards based on input from academia and stakeholders working on soil health. The Department will make available to producers' practical information from research on soil health.

The law also creates a climate resilient farming initiative to encourage agricultural producers to use best management practices to reduce the effects of farming on climate change, and mitigate the impact of climate change by improving and maintaining water management systems and soil health.

The law amends Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law to declare it is the policy of the legislature to promote the health and resiliency of agricultural soils, and will authorize the Districts to participate in the support of the soil health and climate resilient farming initiatives.

**5. Nourish New York  
(Chapter 631 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #45/A.5781-A Cruz)**

The law creates the Nourish New York program requiring the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, subject to state or federal appropriations, to facilitate a program to purchase surplus New York agricultural products at competitive wholesale prices and provide them to food relief organizations such as food banks and pantries. Information for food organizations and farmers will be made available on the Department's website.

This law also requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH), to review, and report on, the adequacy of funding and service by region, of the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) in DOH, and the need for changes. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets is required to report on the need for a grant program to increase cold storage capacity for food banks and other food relief organizations in underserved regions of the state. The Commissioner will report any findings to the Governor and Legislature by February 1, 2022.

**6. Dairy Farmer Security Fund  
(Chapter 228 of the Laws of 2021/A.7481 Jones)**

This law removes the permit requirement for the importation of milk and dairy products into the State and adds a provision to prohibit the importation of those products unless they meet all State standards.

This law also authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets to make advance payments to dairy farmers when a dairy processor defaults, cannot reimburse farmers what they are owed and when the payments would not be covered by the Milk Producer's Security Fund. Dairy farmers who sell to a processor who uses a bond or a letter of credit instead of participating in the Fund will receive up to 50% of what they were owed as an advance payment from the Department within 60 days. The bonds or letters of credit of the processors who don't participate in the Fund are required to include provisions related to the advance payments made by the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

**7. Pollinator Disease Prevention  
(Chapter 160 of the Laws of 2021/A.7568 Lupardo)**

This law modifies the Apiary Advisory Committee in the Department of Agriculture and Markets, by making the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets the Chairperson. It adds beekeeping-related definitions including "nucleus colony," "brood comb," and "beekeeper" to law. The law also updates the legal procedures used when the Department determines it is necessary to seize or destroy diseased bee colonies.

The law establishes a Cooperative Honey Bee Health Improvement Program to protect the health of pollinators by creating a registry of bee colonies and beekeepers, including contact information and whether colonies are being sold. This information will be used to document and communicate information

about disease outbreaks and the Department's plans for containing the outbreak. There is no fee charged for the registration or participation in the program.

The law adds additional honey bee products to those farm product sales that already are counted to determine if a farm qualifies for agricultural assessments and farm building tax exemptions.

## **B. Department of Agriculture and Markets Administrative, Regulatory and Reporting Legislation**

### **1. Community Gardens Task Force (Chapter 635 of the Laws of 2021/A.735 D. Rosenthal)**

This law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to convene the Community Gardens Task Force established in Agriculture and Markets Law. It will expand the membership of the Task Force to include representatives of organizations working to promote gardens and expand the goals to include promoting gardens for after school programs and encouraging the development and expansion of community gardens in food deserts. The Task Force will be required to report to the Governor and Legislature on the status of community gardens in the State including: the number and location; costs, benefits and impacts; successes, failures and barriers; funding sources; steps and projects undertaken to meet the goals established in law; an action plan for doubling the number of community gardens; recommendations for developing, maintaining and expanding community gardens in food deserts; and, any other recommendations or assessments deemed necessary. The first report will be due by January 1, 2023, and then every five years.

### **2. Farm and Food Supply Chain Report (Chapter 24 of the Laws of 2021/A.952 Lupardo)**

This law amends Chapter 316 of the Laws of 2020 to require the Commissioners of Agriculture and Markets and Economic Development working with Cornell University, to solicit input from representatives of the food supply chain and report on the impact of Covid-19 on the supply chain and the need for farm and food policy changes. The report will provide advice, guidance, and recommendations on improving the resiliency and self-reliance of the state's farm and food supply and the related supply chain logistics. It will address the food shortages, food waste, and the inability to get New York farm goods to markets that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to develop permanent solutions beyond the state of emergency to reflect the changing wholesale, retail and consumer marketplace. Representatives from farming, food businesses from all sectors of the food industry, including small, family-owned, and minority- and women-owned businesses and farms, labor, emergency food providers, academia, federal and state government, and any other groups the Commissioners deem necessary provided input and participated in at least one roundtable meeting to aid in developing the report by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**3. Access to Local Foods  
(Chapter 731 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #98 /A.4613 Lupardo)**

This law creates an eleven-member task force to identify strategies to improve access to healthy, locally produced fresh food for underserved, nutritionally deficient urban and rural communities, by increasing the production, marketing, and distribution of such foods. The task force will be comprised of four members appointed by the Governor, two each by the Temporary President of the Senate and Speaker of the Assembly, one member each by the Minority Leaders of the Senate and Assembly, and the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets will serve as the Ex-Officio Chair of the task force. The appointees will be representatives of farmers, not-for-profit food access organizations, the grocery industry, and, State, county, and New York City economic development agencies. The task force will report to the Governor and the Legislature on its findings one year after the effective date of this law.

**4. Lyme and Tick Disease  
(Chapter 648 of the Laws of 2021/A.6888 Barrett)**

This law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to develop and conduct an awareness campaign using all forms of media to inform farmers and farmworkers about Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including how to treat them and prevent them.

**5. Urban and Vertical Farming Study  
(Chapter 747 of the Laws of 2021/A.7207-A Jackson)**

This law directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to study the impact of urban agriculture, including vertical farming and community gardens, on access to locally grown food, job opportunities and impacts on the environment. The results of the study, including recommendations for legislative and administrative programs, will be reported to the Governor, Temporary President of the Senate, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and Assembly within one year of the effective date of the legislation.

**6. Database of Farms  
(Chapter 751 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #114/A.7403-A Septimo)**

This law requires the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development and the Empire State Development Corporation, to develop and maintain a public, searchable database on its website, of New York State farms, including the products they sell and their contact information. The law will authorize farms to opt-out of participating and the database will be updated every two years.

**7. Alternative Fuel Standards  
(Chapter 334 of the Laws of 2021/A.7567-A McMahon)**

This law defines alternative fuels, such as alcohols and non-petroleum fuels, derived from biological materials in the weights and measures section of Agriculture and Markets Law, and authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to promulgate regulations for standards, sampling, and to assist local weights and measures directors in determining compliance with standards for these fuels.

## **C. Animal Protection Legislation**

### **1. Animal Response Teams (Chapter 204 of the Laws of 2021/A.7122 Lupardo)**

This law authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets to enter into agreements with animal welfare organizations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters affecting animals. Currently, the Department facilitates these agreements with the Department of Homeland Security, and this will enable them to more quickly respond.

### **2. Race Horse Slaughter Ban (Chapter 645 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #50/A.4154-B Pretlow)**

This law prohibits the intentional slaughter of thoroughbred and standardbred race horses, as well as the sale, purchase, possession, import, export, transfer or transport of such horses when the owner knows or should have known the horses will be slaughtered. The law includes a criminal penalty and it will subject an owner with a Gaming Commission license to potential sanctions. The purchaser or seller of such race horses, if a member of the relevant breed registry, will have to notify such registries of the transfer in ownership.

The law requires that any fines collected be deposited into segregated funds for the purposes of retired aftercare for thoroughbred and standardbreds, to be administered by the respective breeding funds. Additionally, the law authorizes New York State taxpayers to make taxable tax check-off donations towards race horse aftercare.

The law requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in cooperation with the Gaming Commission and thoroughbred and standardbred breeding funds, to inform the race-horse and the rest of the horse industry about this law.

This law further requires that all standardbreds and thoroughbreds be microchipped as a part of their registration starting on January 1, 2022. The Gaming Commission could request that all microchipping information be provided and made available to the Commission as needed pursuant to the provisions of this law.

## **D. Hearings/Roundtables**

### *Public Hearing on the State Budget Support for the Competitiveness of Small- and Medium-Sized Farms*

On November 16, 2021, the Assembly Committees on Agriculture and Small Business, Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, and the Subcommittees on Agricultural Production and Technology, Agriculture Economic Development and Farmland Protection, and Micro Business held a hearing to review the impact and implementation of the State Budget as it relates to assisting small- and medium-sized farms and related small businesses to compete in the state, national and international marketplace.

The panel was interested in testimony about the efficacy of current investments in agriculture and related small businesses, such as food and beverage processing, to: sustain the long-term economic viability of small- and medium-sized farms and small businesses; protect and enhance natural resources, including the use of emerging technologies, that support farming such as healthy soils; and support new and beginning farmers, especially those that have been historically underrepresented and underserved.

Witnesses testified on the importance of funding for research, training, marketing and other support provided by the State and the need for continued or increased funding to address ongoing needs and new challenges. Those testifying included Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, New York Farm Bureau, Black Farmers United of New York, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, New York Farm Viability Institute, Farm Credit East, GrowNYC, American Farmland Trust, organizations representing farming sectors such as vegetable growers, dairy producers, and craft beverage producers, and a local economic development agency.

## **E. Agriculture Budget 2021- 2022**

In the SFY 2021-2022 Department of Agriculture and Markets budget, the Legislature included an estimated \$55.8 million for local assistance, an increase of \$4.8 million, and \$121.8 million for State operations. Funding for capital projects totaled \$14.4 million.

The Legislature demonstrated its interest in promoting and protecting agriculture by adding funding for programs related to marketing, research, education and support for farmers. The final budget fully restored or increased funding for programs such as Cornell's Diagnostic Veterinary Lab, Farmworker Child Care, Farm Viability Institute, Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences research, producer associations marketing efforts, urban agricultural education, and farmland protection technical assistance. New funding was provided for Cornell's Equitable Farm Futures Initiative, Hops Breeding, Empire Sheep Producers, Forensic Pathology, and legislative initiatives for local Cooperative Extension and other programs. (Chart on pg. 11)

<b>Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)</b>			
<b>Enacted Budget 2021-2022</b>			
<b>Cornell Diagnostic Lab</b>		<b>Farm Viability Institute</b>	
"Core" Diagnostic Lab	\$ 5,425,000	Farm Viability Institute	\$1,850,000
Cattle Health Assurance	\$360,000	NYS Berry Growers	\$60,000
Quality Milk Production Services	\$1,174,000	NYS Corn and Soybean Growers	\$75,000
Johnes Disease	\$480,000	<b>Agriculture Development</b>	
Rabies Program	\$400,000	Grow NY	\$2,000,000
Avian Disease	\$252,000	NYS Brewers	\$75,000
Salmonella Dublin	\$200,000	NYS Cider Association	\$75,000
Forensic Pathology	\$460,000	NYS Distillers Guild	\$75,000
<b>Cornell R&amp;D</b>		NYS Wine & Grape Foundation	\$1,075,000
Berry Research	\$260,000	NYS Christmas Tree Farmers	\$125,000
Honeybee Research	\$150,000	NYS Apple Growers Assoc.	\$750,000
Maple Research	\$125,000	NYS Maple Producers	\$225,000
Onion Research	\$70,000	Apple R&D	\$500,000
Vegetable Research	\$100,000	Turfgrass Industry	\$150,000
Cornell Hard Cider Research	\$200,000	Northern NY Ag Development	\$300,000
Cornell Concord Grape Research	\$250,000	Harvest New York	\$600,000
Hops Breeding Research	\$300,000	Electronic Benefits Transfer	\$138,000
Malting Barley	\$350,000	Farm-To-School	\$750,000
Golden Nematode	\$62,000	Hop Growers of New York	\$50,000
<b>Cornell Education and Outreach</b>		Ag Child Care (Migrant)	\$9,300,000
Ag- in- the- Classroom	\$380,000	Local Fairs	\$500,000
Future Farmers of America	\$842,000	Tractor Rollover Protection	\$250,000
Agricultural Educators	\$416,000	Empire Sheep Producers	\$50,000
Farm Family Assistance	\$1,000,000	<b>Farmland Protection</b>	
Pro-Dairy Program	\$1,201,000	Farmland for a New Generation	\$500,000
Veterans to Farms	\$115,000	<b>Local Initiatives</b>	\$514,000
Farm Labor Specialist	\$200,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,779,000</b>
Dairy Profit Teams	\$370,000		
Urban Agricultural Education	\$250,000		
Equitable Farm Futures Initiative	\$400,000		

### **III. 2022 Outlook**

In 2021, the Standing Committee on Agriculture continued to work to: provide state financial support and reduce administrative burdens for farmers and other businesses; foster research to help farmers boost productivity; assist food businesses; protect agricultural land; and protect pets and their owners. In the coming year, the Committee expects to continue to address issues of concern to farmers and related business owners, consumers, and animal advocates. The Committee will work to help assure that our farmers can capitalize on the burgeoning hemp industry and potential cannabis marketplace.

**APPENDIX A  
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS  
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
DURING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills
<b><u>BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:</u></b>			
Codes	6	0	6
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways & Means	6	0	6
Rules	3	0	3
Floor	6	0	6
<b>Total</b>	21	0	21
<b><u>COMMITTEE ACTION</u></b>			
Bills Held for Consideration	0	0	0
Bills Defeated in Committee	0	0	0
Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken	1	0	1
<b><u>BILLS REMAINING IN COMMITTEE</u></b>	107	8	115
<b><u>BILLS HAVING COMMITTEE REFERENCE CHANGED</u></b>	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD</b>		5	

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

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.735	D. Rosenthal	This law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to convene the Community Gardens Task Force established in Agriculture and Markets Law, expands the goals and membership of the Task Force, and requires a report on the status of community gardens in the State with an action plan for doubling the number of community gardens and developing, maintaining and expanding community gardens in food deserts. <b>Chapter 635 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.952	Lupardo	This law amends Chapter 316 of the Laws of 2020 to require the Commissioners of Agriculture and Markets and Economic Development working with Cornell University, to solicit input from representatives of the food supply chain and report on the impact of Covid-19 on the supply chain and the need for farm and food policy changes. <b>Chapter 24 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.1889-A	Lupardo	This law provides individuals or entities performing agricultural practices on behalf of a farm owner or operation with the same authorization under the Right-to-Farm section of Agricultural Districts Law as a farm owner or operator to request an opinion from the Commissioner of Agriculture on whether local land use laws or regulations unreasonably restrict agriculture practices. <b>Chapter 282 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.4154-B	Pretlow	This law prohibits the intentional slaughter of thoroughbred and standardbred race horses, as well as the sale, purchase, possession, import, export, transfer or transport of such horses when the owner knows or should have known the horses will be slaughtered. The law includes information and outreach for the horse industry, potential criminal penalties and Gaming license sanctions for violations, and the creation of tax checkoffs for race horse aftercare. <b>Chapter 645 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #50</b>
A.4613	Lupardo	This law creates an eleven-member task force to identify strategies to improve access to healthy, locally produced fresh food for underserved, nutritionally deficient urban and rural communities, by increasing the production, marketing, and distribution of such foods and report on their findings. <b>Chapter 731 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #98</b>
A.4690	Lupardo	This law requires that products sold as beech syrup or sugar are made from pure beech sap or syrup and sugars, and if a product contains beech syrup or sugar mixed with other ingredients, they must all be listed on the label. <b>Chapter 195 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.5380-B	Lupardo	This law authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development, to assist in the promotion, marketing and sale, both within and outside the state, of New York State animal and plant fiber and products made from fiber such as wool or hemp. <b>Chapter 285 of the Laws of 2021</b>

A.5386-A	Lupardo	This law requires the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee to encourage agricultural producers in urban, suburban and rural communities to improve and maintain the health of farm soils using soil health practices and to encourage agricultural producers to use best management practices to reduce the effects of farming on climate change, and mitigate the impact of climate change by improving and maintaining water management systems and soil health. <b>Chapter 735 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #102</b>
A.5781-A	Cruz	The law establishes the Nourish New York program in law, requiring the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, subject to state or federal appropriations, to facilitate a program to purchase surplus New York agricultural products at competitive wholesale prices and provide them to food relief organizations such as food banks and pantries. This law also requires reports on the need for assistance from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and the need to increase cold storage capacity for food banks and other food relief organizations in underserved regions of the state. <b>Chapter 631 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #45</b>
A.6888	Barrett	This law will require the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, to develop and conduct an awareness campaign using all forms of media to inform farmers and farmworkers about Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including how to treat them and prevent them. <b>Chapter 648 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.7122	Lupardo	This law authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets to enter into agreements with animal welfare organizations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters affecting animals. <b>Chapter 204 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.7207-A	Jackson	This law directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to study the impact of urban agriculture, including vertical farming and community gardens, on access to locally grown food, job opportunities and impacts on the environment. The results of the study, including recommendations for legislative and administrative programs, will be reported to the Governor, Temporary President of the Senate, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and Assembly within one year of the effective date of the legislation. <b>Chapter 747 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.7403-A	Septimo	This law requires the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in cooperation with the Department of Economic Development and the Empire State Development Corporation, to develop and maintain a public, searchable database on its website, of New York State farms, including the products they sell and their contact information. The law will authorize farms to opt-out of participating and the database will be updated every two years. <b>Chapter 751 of the Laws of 2021, Approval Memo #114</b>
A.7481	Jones	This law removes the permit requirement for the importation of milk and dairy products into the State and adds a provision to prohibit the importation of those products unless they meet all State standards. It also authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets to make advance payments to dairy farmers when a dairy processor defaults, cannot reimburse farmers what they are owed and when the payments would not be covered by the Milk Producer's Security Fund. <b>Chapter 228 of the Laws of 2021</b>

A.7567-A	McMahon	This law defines alternative fuels, such as alcohols and non-petroleum fuels, derived from biological materials in the weights and measures section of Agriculture and Markets Law, and authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to promulgate regulations for standards, sampling, and to assist local weights and measures directors in determining compliance with standards for these fuels. <b>Chapter 334 of the Laws of 2021</b>
A.7568	Lupardo	The law establishes the Cooperative Honey Bee Health Improvement Program to protect the health of pollinators by creating a registry of bee colonies and beekeepers, including contact information and whether colonies are being sold. This information will be used to document and communicate information about disease outbreaks and the Department's plans for containing the outbreak. <b>Chapter 160 of the Laws of 2021</b>