



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CITIES
ASSEMBLY TASK FORCE ON FOOD, FARM, AND NUTRITION POLICY**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Urban Agriculture

PURPOSE: To examine the impact of urban agriculture on communities and explore any opportunities or potential barriers to expanding urban agricultural programs in New York.

Wednesday
November 18, 2026
11:00 A.M.
Assembly Hearing Room, 19th Floor
250 Broadway, New York, New York

ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

New York is home to more than 3,000 registered or permitted urban and community gardens which play a vital role in strengthening local communities and expanding access to fresh, nutritious food. Urban agriculture has become increasingly important as food insecurity continues to rise nationwide due to inflation, elevated grocery prices, and federal reductions in programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Data shows that urban community gardens and farms, alongside healthy food incentive programs, are meaningful tools for low-income households to access fresh and nutritious food and reduce poverty and chronic food insecurity. Beyond food production, urban gardens foster collaboration with residents, community groups, and local governments to support and advance both urban agriculture and their communities.

Urban agriculture presents a significant opportunity to enhance community collaboration, promote food security, and increase access to healthy, local foods. The Committees and Task Force are seeking information on the impact of urban agriculture on communities, opportunities to expand urban agricultural programs, including improving access for low-income households, and potential barriers to expanding these programs in New York.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Donna Lupardo
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Agriculture

Maritza Davila
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Social Services

Michaelle C. Solages
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Local Governments

Patrick Burke
Member of Assembly
Chair, Committee on Cities

Khaleel Anderson
Member of Assembly
Chair, Task Force on Farm, Food and
Nutrition Policy

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

People invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the Urban Agriculture on November 18, 2026, are requested to complete this reply form by **Friday, November 13, 2026**, and mail, email, or fax it to:

Debra Jenkins
NYS Assembly Office of Research and Program Development
Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 23rd Floor
80 South Swan Street
Albany, New York 12248
Email: jenkinsd@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4386
Fax: (518) 455-5573

☐ I plan to attend the following public hearing on Urban Agriculture to be conducted on November 18, 2026.

☐ I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five (5) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

☐ I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

☐ I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

☐ I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

☐ I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

☐ I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____