



The

New York State Agricultural Society

Fall 2006

# CULTIVATOR

[www.nysagsociety.org](http://www.nysagsociety.org)

*Organized to Foster, Promote and Improve the Food and Agricultural Industry in New York State*

## SOCIETY SUPPORTS NEW PBS DOCUMENTARY ON FARMING IN NEW YORK Your Support is Needed...



The Society, represented by dedicated committee chair Bob Bitz, has been working with WCNY-TV in Syracuse to create a documentary on NY Agriculture scheduled to debut on all 9 PBS stations in New York State in February 2007. (WCNY-Syracuse, WXXI- Rochester, WNED- Buffalo, WPBS-Watertown, WMHT- Schenectady, WSKG- Binghamton, WNET- New York City, WLIW- Long Island, & WCFE-Plattsburgh) These stations have a potential viewing audience of 18 million people, and all PBS affiliates will be carrying the program during the first six months of 2007.

Few people in New York are aware of the extensive agricultural industry we have in our great state and its importance to them for its safe food, our healthy environment, and its sustainability. We feel that this documentary will be an important educational film for the people of New York and will benefit our agricultural producers and their suppliers.

With a rich history and tradition, New York State farmers remain prolific producers today. This one-hour documentary examines agriculture today, the plethora of agricultural products being produced on New York State farms, plus new cutting edge technology that will keep agriculture competitive in a global economy.

WCNY's producers have been hitting the road visiting farms and interviewing farmers throughout the state. Much of the documentary will be dedicated to what is produced in New York's fields, orchards, vineyards and livestock facilities. From apples to dairy, to horses, turfgrass and more, we will see what is happening on our diverse New York farms, learn about consumer supported agriculture, and find out more about food being produced for fuel, power and medicine. The grape and wine industry has exploded, organic crops are expanding, tomatoes and peppers are even being grown in water. Many of the farms now have retail outlets, turkeys are raised without antibiotics and some dairy farms are now marketing their own yogurt, ice cream and milk.

This documentary is expensive and your support is vital. Consider how important it is that an honest, fact-filled story about the value and great importance of our industry be shown to the PBS viewing public.... On **all** public television stations in New York State. Ask yourself how important it is that DVDs of this documentary will be used to provide accurate knowledge about agriculture in New York to our school children. We ask that you then consider making a monetary gift. Your support will be an opportunity to join with the bread and butter of New York agriculture in telling NY consumers about our great industry.

To preview a 1.5 minute segment, visit our web site at [www.nysgasociety.org](http://www.nysgasociety.org) Contributions of \$500 or more (received by **December 15, 2006**) will be recognized in the documentary's closing credits. *For more information or to support the documentary, contact: Larry Goodstight at WCNY (315) 453-2424 x 215*

## NYS AG SOCIETY CO-SPONSORS 2006 CORNELL FARM SAFETY AWARD

**Ed Hansen Farms** received the 2006 Cornell Farm Safety Award during the American Agriculturist/CAO luncheon at Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls. Antonio Gomez, safety officer, accepted the award on behalf of the farm. (CONTINUED on next page...)



(L-R: Antonio Gomez- safety officer at Ed Hansen Farms, Dick Peterson- Pres. NYS Ag Society, Eric Hallman- Dir., Cornell Ag. Health & Safety Program, Ellen Abend- Cornell)

**FARM SAFETY AWARD- CONT'D.**

Hansen Farms, owned and operated by the Hansen Family of Stanley, NY, is a 2700 acre vegetable and grain producer growing cabbage, carrots, snap beans, soybeans and corn. There are fifteen full/part time employees and 20 seasonal workers.

As safety officer, Mr. Gomez focuses on safety issues on the farm which indicates a real commitment to safety on the part of the owners. In accepting the award, Antonio stated, *“It is a true honor for me to receive the Cornell Farm Safety Award. My boss, Ed Hansen, gave me the opportunity to coordinate our farm safety program a few years ago and winning this award is the culmination of a lot of hard work, and truly a special moment for me. The entire farm is honored to be recognized for something we have strived to make important on a daily basis for every employee. The award reminds us that being safe is not only the best thing for our employees’ well-being, but also can be beneficial to the farm as a whole.”*

Safety is a priority at Hansen Farms and begins with the requirement for each employee to read and sign the farm’s safety policy on the first day of work. All employees attend annual safety training during work hours, are required to wear personal protective equipment provided by the owners, and are encouraged to ask for help. The farm has also provided the following safety improvements to the work site: a new locked, fire-proof chemical storage facility, upgraded transportation for seasonal workers, a fire-preplan with the local fire department and a new fertilizer tank and sprayer filling system to reduce the potential for spills.

The Cornell Farm Safety Award is jointly sponsored by the Cornell Agricultural Health and Safety Program and the New York State Agricultural Society. The Purpose of the award is to formally recognize farms that consistently make efforts to improve the safety of their work site and employee work practices. To be considered for this award, a farm owner or safety officer must submit an application which can be found at the Cornell Ag. Health & Safety website: [www.diaglab.net.cornell.edu/aghealth/](http://www.diaglab.net.cornell.edu/aghealth/)

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**175 years...and still GROWING strong!**

**NYS  
Agricultural  
Society’s  
Mission:**  
  
**To improve  
New York  
agriculture  
through  
Education,  
Leadership  
Development  
&  
Recognition  
Programs**

**-2007 MEMBERSHIP-  
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## From the President

The Society board of directors met in the Saratoga area in July and finalized plans for our 175<sup>th</sup> year. We were also privileged to tour **Saratoga Sod Farm, McMahon of Saratoga Thoroughbreds, and Thomas' Poultry Farm**. Many thanks to our hosts for sharing their varied and interesting agricultural operations with us. The group enjoyed dinner and an evening of harness racing (including a race named in honor of the Society) at Saratoga Raceway.



*(L-R: Janice Bitz, Dick Call, Beth Claypoole, Penny Heritage, Dick Peterson, Pat Peck, Chris Peterson, Joe Peck, Mary Pamkowski, Driver: B. Segel, Peter Pamkowski, Peter Ten Eyck & Beschuiitt (sporting our NYS Ag Society blanket)*

Thanks to **Squiggout Web Designs**, a New York business based in Clifton Park, the Society's web site has a new look and updated functionality. If you haven't visited lately, please visit [www.nysagsociety.org](http://www.nysagsociety.org) to see our colorful new site with improved navigation and the ability to process online memberships, forum registrations and credit card transactions. Squiggout donated the valuable makeover and will advertise our new web design to potential clients. The company provides reliable business class hosting solutions at affordable prices.

Thanks also to **The Gabriel Family from Trumbull CT** for the donation of a bound volume of the **"Transactions of the N.Y. State Agricultural Society- 1848"**. We are thrilled to have this among our archives and plan to have it and other artifacts on display at our 175th Annual Meeting and Forum on January 11th. If you have any historical items to share on loan for our exhibit, please call us at 518-384-1715.

Lastly, if you haven't already assisted with relief efforts for NY farmers affected by flooding earlier this year, you still can. Cornell Cooperative Extension and the New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education continue to operate the **"Emergency Forage Exchange"** and **"Feed and Forage Transportation Fund"** to provide feed and cash assistance. If you have feed to donate or sell, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office. To make a tax-deductible monetary donation, call the Farm Bureau Foundation at (800) 342-4143.

A fine program is in place for our 175th Annual Forum in January, 2007. You won't want to miss it. We have put together a very special event celebrating the Society's role in the growth and sustainability of our agricultural industry since 1832. Our members are the key to the longevity and success of the Society. Please continue your support by sending in your membership renewal. If you are reading this, and you are not a member, please join. We need you to be counted as a strong supporter of our great agricultural heritage.



Dick Peterson  
President, New York State Agricultural Society

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