



The

New York State Agricultural Society

Spring 2007

CULTIVATOR

www.nysagsociety.org

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

1832

175th

2007

Anniversary

*Honoring New York Agriculture's
Past, Present & Future*

Society Celebrates 175th Anniversary, Forum Explores Challenges & Cultivates Opportunities in New York Agriculture

A record crowd of over 500 agriculturists gathered in Syracuse on January 11th to celebrate the New York State Agricultural Society's 175th Annual Meeting and participate in a Forum to explore the challenges and cultivate opportunities in New York agriculture. The annual forum, co-sponsored by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, is the only statewide agricultural meeting that brings together all sectors of the food system- producers, manufacturers, distributors, marketers, consumers and policymakers -to explore topics critical to the future of New York agriculture.

Society helps NY Agriculture's story reach 18 million

Following the brief business meeting, forum attendees viewed the premiere of a new PBS documentary, *The Performers: Taking Center Stage in New York Agriculture*. 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. Between February and June of 2007, all nine New York public television stations (WCNY-Syracuse, WXXI-Rochester, WNED-Buffalo, WPBS-Watertown, WMHT-Schenectady, WSKG-Binghamton, WNET-New York City, WLIW-Long Island, & WCFE-Plattsburgh) will show this documentary on New York agriculture; the potential audience numbers more than 18 million people!

Please see **175th Forum**, Continued on Page 2

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

President's Message from Sandie Prokop

It is an honor to write this column as the President of the New York State Agricultural Society! Many years have passed since I first attended the Annual Forum as a class member of LEAD NY, a dynamic agricultural leadership program initiated by the Society over two decades ago.

It is a daunting task to corral the energy and "lead" the leaders who comprise our board and committees...like herding cats! The Society's board and committee volunteers are what make the organization tick. Their creativity and enthusiasm fuels the Annual Forum providing an environment for the core of New York agriculture to meet and network for the benefit of our industry. Together the board and committees will continue our mission for over 175 years to improve the state's agriculture through education, leadership development and recognition programs.

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PBS Ag Documentary Schedule

How did this important documentary come about? The Society's Board of Directors believed the organization's 175th anniversary should not pass without a significant event to mark the occasion. At the behest of the Society's board, Bob Bitz of Plainville Farms contacted WCNY, the Syracuse public television network, with this proposal: New Yorkers need to know much more about the state's agriculture industry and its importance in their lives. The board suggested that the television camera should visit a variety of farms across the state to film the real story of agriculture.



Bob Bitz & WCNY's Liz Ayers introducing PBS Documentary

WCNY, which has an excellent record of presenting accurate information to the public, responded enthusiastically. It contacted the state's other eight public television stations, which agreed *The Performers: Taking Center Stage in New York Agriculture* was a great idea, and they would show it to their viewers. Agriculture's documentary will also be available to New York schools and for other educational purposes, giving it wide exposure in many places.

Government regulations of public media prevented the Society from dictating any aspect of content, but the Society did give WCNY the names of a number of farms. The station chose which farms to include in the documentary and began filming in July 2006. The Society agreed to contribute a minimum of \$20,000 toward the \$125,000 production cost of the documentary, and raised an additional \$30,000 to offset the cost. In return, the Society and other supporters received recognition in the documentary's credits.

One of the Society's goals is to promote a better understanding of and respect for agriculture. This documentary certainly meets that goal and will help many New Yorkers recognize the contribution made by the state's agriculture to healthy food, a safe environment and sustainable resources. The Society has served agriculture and the people of New York with distinction for 175 years. This documentary is a fitting recognition of that service and sets the stage for its continuation into the future.

Listening from the Field

At this year's 175th annual agricultural forum, the New York State Agricultural Society took a bold new step in its leadership role in representing the state's broad agricultural interests. Instead of the usual format of policymakers and experts telling what they think the listeners should know, the Society reversed the tables—literally. Forum attendees told experts and policymakers what the agricultural community thinks they should know. Policy, research, teaching, extension and support services programs are all formed based on understanding the needs of the agricultural community. Often the interpretation

of those needs gets filtered through many levels before they make their way into implementation. At the annual forum, participants had a chance to have face-to-face, unfiltered discussions about the critical issues of our industry and our times which will shape our futures.

The Society identified 25 primary issue areas exploring two questions:

- What are the challenges surrounding this issue?
- What are some solutions?

Group discussions were structured and facilitated by LEAD New York Class 11 members. Each group had "listeners" from relevant agencies and organizations to hear firsthand what participants in the forum had to say. The contents of the discussions were transcribed, briefly discussed at the full session and summarized. (***See insert in this issue of The Cultivator***) The diverse dialogs were a positive start in scouting the needs of New York agriculture.

Seven Journalists Honored

Following the Society's "Pride of New York Luncheon", where products grown and/or processed in New York are served, eight Cap Creal Journalism Awards were presented to seven journalists. All 36 journalists who submitted entries earn the thanks of the Society for their efforts to portray the state's agriculture in a positive, accurate manner. Through this recognition program, the Society hopes to inspire more coverage of the positive aspects of agriculture.

The journalism award program, begun in 1978, is named for Harold L. "Cap" Creal a central New York farmer, member of the New York State Assembly from 1930 to 1950

and of the Society. The Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity at Cornell co-sponsors the journalism award in recognition of Cap Creal's membership in the fraternity.

The Society recognizes journalists in two broad categories: General and Agricultural media. Within each, there are four subcategories: single print article, print series, electronic and editorial/commentary. The Society presents one photo award. The subjects of this year's entrants ranged from maple production to immigrant labor policy and from cows to crops. This year's journalists write for a range of publications: Cornell Cooperative Extension, local weekly newspapers, large city dailies, regional and national magazines, and public radio.

The Agricultural Society and the Cap Creal Journalism Award committee are pleased to recognize the following journalists:



Karen Miltner for her article "Switching to Organic Can Do a Dairy Farmer Good," published in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (Sept. 15, 2006) which explains why two dairies in the area are pursuing organic milk production.

Sarah Bradshaw's series "Business of Agriculture" appears on the front page of the business section in the *Sunday Poughkeepsie Journal* once a month.



Jim Allen is a great voice for the apple industry, said one judge about his editorial, "Illegal Worker Bill is Beaker of Fiscal Poison," that appeared in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*. (Dec. 14, 2005)



Democrat and Chronicle. (Dec. 14, 2005)

A two-time winner in this year's Cap Creal Journalism recognition program, another of Jim's editorials "Federal Buying Programs for Kids Help Everybody" appeared in the national publication, *The Packer*. (Oct. 24, 2005)



David Sommerstein with North Country Public Radio at St. Lawrence University is noted for his informed and compassionate coverage of agriculture. His series of broadcasts from one dairy captured in detail all aspects of dairying throughout a year from cutting hay to breeding, feeding and caring for cows.

Rosemary Gordon for the second year receives the Agricultural Society's Agricultural Media single print article recognition. Her article "Ahead of the Game" appears in *American Vegetable Grower*.



Larry Hulle, the dairy science educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Orange County, writes a cover story each month for the Extension newsletter featuring local farmers benefitting from current technology or good farm management.

Julie Lewis' award-winning maple sugaring photo appeared in the March 25/26, 2006, issue of *The Daily Star*, Oneonta.



Congratulations Bicentennial Farm Families....

*Celebrating family farms
in operation for 200 years*



Brown's Berry Patch (1)
Waterport, NY
Orleans County
-Brown Family-



Byebrook Farm (2)
Stamford, NY
Delaware County
-Deysenroth Family-



Cochrane Farms (3)
Ripley, NY
Chautauqua County
-Cochrane/Chess Family-

Colby Homestead Farms (4)
Ogden, NY
Monroe County
-Colby Family-



Fulkerson Farm (5)
Starkey, NY
Yates County
-Fulkerson Family-

Handy Hills Farm (6)
St. Johnsville, NY
Montgomery County
-Handy Family-



Ken-Ray Farm (7)
Union Vale, NY
Dutchess County
-Vail Family-

Lendrum Farm (8)
Berne, NY
Albany County
-Lendrum Family-



SCOTTNY Reg. Holsteins (9)
Brookfield, NY
Madison County
-Roberts Family-

The Orchards of Concklin (10)
Ramapo, NY
Rockland County
-Concklin Family-



Willow Mill Stock Farm (11)
Worcester, NY
Otsego County
-Hillis Family-

11 Bicentennial Farm Families Honored

The New York State Agricultural Society honors families dedicated to farming, stewardship and community involvement in New York. Eleven 2006 Bicentennial Farm families were honored for over 200 years of continuous family ownership of their farms. Each family receives a Governor's proclamation and an exterior farm sign. The award is sponsored by Farm Credit Associations of New York State.

To read the fascinating histories of these Bicentennial Farm Families, please visit the Press Release section of the Society's web site: www.nysagsociety.org

Two Businesses of the Year Awarded

The New York State Agricultural Society's Business of the Year Award recognizes two businesses for their quality, innovation, industry leadership, community advocacy and continued development. This year's recipients are Noblehurst Farms of Linwood, and the I.L. Richer Company of Sangerfield.

Noblehurst Farms- Established in 1960, Noblehurst Farms Inc. is the result of six generations of farming. Characterized by many as "progressive" and "innovative," this 19-member organization is based in Linwood, Livingston County. With roots dating back to the early 1800s, the dairy farm has grown, taking care to do what is right for the land, its cattle, employees and owners.

With a focus on long-range planning and profitability, this farm business thrives on being environmentally conscious, fostering teamwork, and taking pride in the appearance of its property and facilities. Noblehurst Farms Inc. is a 20-year winner of the Dairy of Distinction Award. In addition to milking more than 1,550 cows and cropping more than 2,000 acres, the farm owners actively operate numerous affiliated businesses under the Noblehurst umbrella. These include Linwood Turf Equipment, Linwood Commodities, Linwood Management Group, Synergy LLC and Baker Brook Dairy LLC.

Active in their community and the agricultural industry, Noblehurst Farms' shareholders are involved in and support numerous local and statewide boards and industry groups. Throughout the generations, the owners and employees of Noblehurst Farms have had a positive influence on their community and industry. They are a model for business collaboration and long-term success.



The Noblehurst Farms Team

I.L. Richer Company- Founded in 1870, the I.L. Richer Company is the oldest privately owned feed business in the Northeast and has grown into one of the leading animal feed producers and suppliers in New York. With mills located in Sangerfield, Central Bridge and Adams Center, I.L. Richer produces more than 163,000 tons of dairy feed a year for New York producers.

In an industry that has been driven by consolidation, I.L. Richer has found success with strategic expansion and modernization of its facilities. This approach has allowed the company to deliver a top quality product while also staying local. On several occasions the company purchased plants which were set to close and then kept them open. Through the years, Richer has developed into much more than a feed business. With its eye on the future, I.L. Richer embraces agriculture's changing industry, and aggressively looks to create a win-win for its customers. These efforts have included biosecurity protocols for on-farm staff, forward contracting for customers and technological developments.

A company that strongly supports New York agriculture, I.L. Richer is a founding member of the New York Agri-Development Corporation. Key staff members also serve and participate in LEAD New York, the FarmNet board of directors, the 4-H Foundation, NBT Bank's board of directors and the Morrisville College Foundation Board.



The I.L. Richer Company Team

Reception honoring Ezra Cornell's 200th Birthday

When selecting the date for its 175th anniversary meeting and forum, little did the Society's board know that January 11, 2007, would hold special significance for another reason. Ezra Cornell, an early leader of the New York State Agricultural Society (President in 1862) and founder of Cornell University was born on January 11, 1807. The Society was pleased to honor Ezra Cornell on his 200th birthday and the great contributions he made to New York State agriculture at this special reception. Susan Henry, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell, shared some remarks prior to cutting the cake, as did Ezra Cornell himself... Ezra IV, that is, great-grandson of the University's founder.



Susan Henry, Ezra Cornell & Dick Peterson cut the cake

FFA Chapter of the Year

The Society recognized the Tri Valley FFA Chapter from Grahamsville (Sullivan County) with the Chapter of the Year Award. Tri-Valley, a chapter with 110 members in grades 7-12 took top honors at the 2006 State FFA Convention

when it received the National FFA Chapter Award for community, chapter and student development.



Students from Tri-Valley FFA "Chapter of the Year"

Distinguished Service Citation recognizes lifetime achievement

The Society awarded its 2007 Distinguished Service Citation to Gary Fitch of Wilson, NY. Since 1956 the Distinguished Service Citation has recognized individuals who have dedicated a lifetime of service resulting in outstanding contributions to New York agriculture. The award, sponsored by New York Farm Bureau Member Services, is the highest honor bestowed by the New York State Agricultural Society.

Gary B. Fitch, president of Ontario Orchards, Inc., and a leader in the farm labor arena, grew up in the Town of Wilson, Niagara County. After graduating from Alfred State in 1957, Gary spent the summer as an exchange ambassador to India. Upon his return to the United States, he married Pat in November 1957.

From 1960 to 1990 Gary was general manager of Ontario Orchards where he was involved in growing, storing and shipping apples, peaches, pears, plums and cherries.

Gary came to his involvement with workforce issues first as a producer as he realized the vital role labor played in his own operation. Gary's interest in agricultural labor issues solidified when he served as president of Niagara County Farm Bureau in 1963. Later he served as president of the Western New York Apple Growers from 1971-72. In 1979, Gary was elected president of the International Apple Institute and served as chairman of its board in 1980. He also served as director on the National Council of Agricultural Employers, representing New York State.

As president of Agriculture Affiliates from 1981 to 1989, then as its executive secretary for 14 years from 1992 to 2006, Gary was the go-to person on agricultural labor issues.

"Gary Fitch has worked tirelessly for over 20 years to bring the latest critical information concerning labor to New York agriculture," said George Lamont, recipient of the Society's 2001 Distinguished Service Citation. *"He did this out of a real sense of commitment and without adequate compensation. This award will convey to Gary how much New York State production agriculture really appreciates his work."*

In 2002 Gary retired from the board of directors of First Niagara Bank after serving 21 years. He continues to store apples at his cold storage in Wilson, N.Y., having sold the orchard in 1990. Later this year,

Jeff Kirby (left) NY Farm Bureau Member Services, award sponsor, presents the Society's 2007 Distinguished Service Citation to Gary Fitch.

Gary is joined by his wife, Pat Fitch, and the Society's George Lamont, who delivered the Citation address.



Gary and his wife, Pat, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their four children and 11 grandchildren.

Gary stays current on agricultural labor issues and immigration policy. He believes that agricultural employers are treating their employees with respect and dignity by allowing them to take part in many decision-making processes.

In recognition of his business accomplishments and tremendous contributions to New York State agriculture, especially in the area of agricultural labor, the New York State Agricultural Society proudly presented Gary Fitch with the 2007 Distinguished Service Citation.

New Agriculture Commissioner addresses Society... Day 1

The highly anticipated announcement of the appointment of a new Agriculture Commissioner was released on January 11th and just a few short hours later Commissioner Patrick Hooker addressed the record crowd at the Society's 175th Anniversary Forum.



NYS Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker with Outgoing Society President Dick Peterson

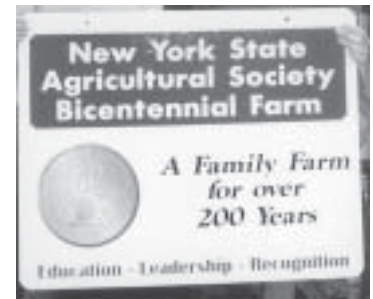
The mood was decidedly celebratory when Commissioner Hooker delivered an engaging impromptu "State of the State's Agriculture Address", culminating the Society's Annual Forum. The new Commissioner said he plans to work toward stabilizing the milk pricing system and to generate increased interest in the "Pride of New York" concept to help farmers direct-market products to New York City.

The New York State Agricultural Society and the Dept. of Agriculture and Markets (forum co-sponsor) invite YOU to attend our 176th Agricultural Forum on Thursday, January 10th, 2008.



Would you like **YOUR** product served at the Society's Annual Agricultural Forum meals and reception?

We are looking for vendors and sponsors of farm products produced and/or processed in New York for our meals, reception foods and beverages. If you want your product to be considered, please contact Peter Pamkowski at 518-457-8861 Peter.Pamkowski@agmkt.state.ny.us or mail to Peter Pamkowski, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, 10 B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235.



Is **YOUR** farm a previous Century Farm or Bicentennial Farm Award Recipient?

Replacement signs are now available for \$35 plus shipping and handling.

Contact: Century/Bicentennial Farm Committee co-chair Sandie Prokop at 518-431-5633.

New President & Vice-President



Sandie Prokop was named president of the New York State Agricultural Society at the 175th Annual Meeting. She is the managing director of the New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education and a family partner in Crossbrook Farm, a 650-acre, 340-cow dairy in Middleburgh.

Sandie is active on many boards including First Pioneer Farm Credit and the Cobleskill Agricultural Society. She has been involved in several organizations as well, including Dairy of Distinction, Dairylea, NY Ag Education Leadership Council, NY Holstein Assn., and NYCAMH. She received the American Dairy Leadership Award in 1997.

Sandie is a graduate of Empire State College, attended the NYS Banker's School for Agricultural Lending, and is an alumnus of LEAD New York Class II.

She lives in Middleburgh with her husband, Richard.

Mike Haycook was elected vice president of the Society in January. Raised on a small dairy farm in Orange County, he gained his love of agriculture through showing and judging dairy cattle on the local, state and national level. He graduated from Cornell University in 1994 and is also a graduate of Class VIII of the LEAD New York program.



Mike is vice president and manager of the Potsdam branch of First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA. Prior to moving to Potsdam in 2000, he lived in Litchfield, CT, Claverack, and Middletown. Over the years he has gained an appreciation for the breadth of New York agriculture having worked with fruit farms, vegetable farms, nurseries, greenhouses, dairies, equine farms and timber operations.

Mike also serves as vice president of the Canton Human Services Initiative. He and his wife, Triva, and their twin 5-year olds Matt & Jennifer, live in Canton.

Welcome New Board Members...



Cheryl Rogowski is manager and co-owner of W. Rogowski Farm, LLC, in Pine Island. A fourth-generation farmer who grows over 200 varieties of fruits and vegetables on her 150-acre Orange County muck farm, Cheryl is an alumnus of LEAD New York Class X and the recipient of a MacArthur Genius Award.

She has a passion for agriculture and communities, especially agriculture that serves the needs of regional and specialty markets, and communities that support local farms. She takes pride in providing her fruits and vegetables to customers through local restaurants, farmers' markets in New York and New Jersey, the family's farmstand, and established the first low-income Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in NYS.

Cheryl left her full-time job as an assistant controller for a real estate development corporation to do what she had always dreamed of: come back and manage the farm full time. She has always been involved in the farm, doing everything from plowing to planting to running the 1200 sq. ft. commercial farm kitchen.

Eric Hallman is an agricultural safety consultant with a background in agricultural engineering and lifelong involvement in production agriculture.

He is former director of the past Cornell Agricultural Health & Safety Program and directed the research and outreach efforts for the Agricultural Health & Safety group for New York. He was responsible for the development of a comprehensive statewide research plan, and coordination of prevention education activities.

Eric's experience in developing prevention programming for rural audiences and collaborating with other agencies, has helped to ensure quality, successful projects serving those in rural New York. Eric lives in Searsburg (near Trumansburg) with his wife and three children.



Thanks to “retiring” Board Member Jay Skellie

At the close of the 2007 Annual Forum, Jay Skellie retired from the Agricultural Society Board. We have all appreciated Jay's dedication to the Society through his work on committees and several terms on the board. Jay was elected as a regional representative to the New York Farm Bureau board of directors in December. We thank Jay for his devoted service to the Society, and we look forward to working with him in other ways.



Members Have a Voice

The New York State Agricultural Society represents a diverse group of members. If you have ideas to help further the Society's mission to improve New York agriculture through Education, Leadership Development & Recognition Programs, we want to hear from you! If you are interested in helping to grow the Society to encompass even more agricultural members (individuals and businesses/organizations) we welcome your input... and new committee members!

This is YOUR Society. Please feel free to contact any of the Society officers, board members or committee chairs with your suggestions!

President: Sandie Prokop (518) 431-5633
Vice President: Mike Haycock (315) 265-8452
Secretary: Beth Claypoole (315) 331-8415
Treasurer: Dick Church (607) 898-3438
Executive Secretary/Publicity: Penny Heritage (518) 384-1715
Dept. of Ag & Markets Liaison: Peter Pamkowski (518) 457-8861

Annual Meeting Planning Chair: Peter Pamkowski (518) 457-8861
Annual Meeting Program Chair: Mike Haycock (315) 265-8452

Awards Committee Chairs

Business of the Year: Mike Haycock (315) 265-8452
Century Farms: Sandie Prokop (518) 431-5633 or Dave Tetor (845) 868-7796
Distinguished Service: Dick Church (607) 898-3438
Journalism: Jessica Chittenden (518) 457-3136

Membership & Outreach Chair: Amy Walker (845) 883-6333
Nominating Chair: Robert Colby (585) 721-0774
Grants & Funding Chair: Craig Yunker (585) 548-2552
Publicity Chair: Eleanor Jacobs (585) 237-3266
Summer Meeting Chair: Beth Claypoole (315) 331-8415

Budget & Audit: Craig Buckhout (315) 476-8201
CAO Delegate: Peter Ten Eyck (518) 765-2956
Cornell University Trustees: John Noble (585) 584-8425
LEAD New York: Craig Buckhout (315) 476-8201

Rural Health & Safety: Dick Peterson (607) 266-9007
State Fair/Witter Museum: Dick Church (607) 898-3438

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The New York State Agricultural Society has served the changing needs of New York's food and agricultural industries since 1832. The Society's legacy is a testament to the efforts of all its members. As we continue our mission, it is a strong membership body that keeps our organization focused and successful.

Continued support is vital. If you know someone who might like to become a member, **please encourage them to join.** Visit our web site at www.nysagsociety.org for information or request a brochure to be mailed to prospective members.

The Society has three membership categories:
(1) Individual member – \$20.00/year
(2) Life membership (Indiv.)- \$200.00
(3) Contributing membership - levels: \$150, \$250, \$500, or \$1000

2007 MEMBERSHIP NYS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY	
Name:	_____
Business/Organization:	_____
Address:	_____ _____
e-mail:	_____
Phone:	_____
(work)	_____
(home)	_____
Please make check payable to: 'NYS Agricultural Society' and mail to: 493 Charlton Road, Ballston Spa, New York, 12020. Thank You!	

AWARD DEADLINES!

New York State Farm Safety Award *-deadline July 20-*

The New York State Agricultural Society has a longstanding interest in agricultural health and safety and assisting New York State farms to improve the safety of their work sites and employee work practices. Promoting farm safety can take many forms and one way is to recognize farms that have consistently made an effort to ensure safety as part of their daily operations.

In order to formally recognize these farms, the Society is proud to sponsor the NY Farm Safety Awards presented during the 2007 Empire Farm Days at the American Agriculturist/Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO) luncheon.

2005 Award Winners:

Table Rock Farm, Inc.

Castile, NY

&

KC Bailey Fruit Farms

Williamson, NY

2006 Award Winner:

Hansen Farms

Stanley, NY

2007 applications due: July 20

contact... NYS Agricultural
Society Ag Health & Safety
Committee Chair
Dick Peterson
607-266-9007

or Committee Member
Eric Hallman
607-387-3041

Century Farm entries sought from “Eastern Half” of New York State *- deadline Sept. 1-*

Has your family owned and operated your farm (in the EASTERN HALF of New York) for 100 years or more? Do you know of a farm that meets the criteria of a Century Farm? The New York State Agricultural Society wants to hear from you!

The Ag Society honors Century Farms each year at the Society's Annual Agricultural Forum, and every fifth year Bicentennial Farms are recognized. A Century Farm is one that has been under continuous ownership by the same family for 100 years or more. Family members must be an integral part of the day-to-day operation of the farm enterprise and proceeds from the farm business must represent a significant portion of the current operator's income.

Ten Century Farms will be honored at the Annual Forum on January 10, 2008.

Visit www.nysagsociety.org for **eligible county list**, requirements and application, or contact committee co-chairs:

Sandie Prokop at 518-827-5616 or Dave Tetor at 845-868-1830

Completed applications must be returned by Sept. 1, 2007.

“Cap” Creal Journalism Contest *-deadline October 1-*

The Society recognizes journalists for outstanding coverage of the positive aspects of agriculture in New York State. Awards of \$100 are given at the annual forum in the categories of:

- **Best articles**
- **Series**
- **Editorial/commentary**
- **Electronic (radio, web site)**
- **and Photos.**

Entries for this year's contest must be published or aired between October 1, 2006, and September 30, 2007.

Submissions must be postmarked by October 1, 2007.

Visit www.nysagsociety.org for contest details
or contact committee chair:
Jessica Chittenden at 518-457-3136

Thank You to our Sponsors and Members!

Several businesses and organizations sponsor portions of our annual forum and specific Society recognition awards. We thank the following for supporting the programs listed by their name:

New York State Dept. of Agriculture & Markets- *co-sponsor of the Agricultural Forum*
Agway Foundation with support from **LEAD NY Class 11**- *Forum Facilitation*
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, Cornell- *"Cap" Creal Journalism Awards*
Farm Credit Associations of New York State- *Bicentennial Farm Awards*
New York Farm Bureau Member Services- *Distinguished Service Citation*

We also thank our 2007 Contributing Members for their generosity in helping further the Society's mission:

Silver (\$500)

Erie & Niagara Insurance
First Pioneer Farm Credit, ACA
I. L. Richer Co. Inc.

Bronze (\$250)

Farm Credit of Western NY, ACA
Susan A. Henry
North Country Insurance Co.
Stewart's Shops

Friend (\$150)

CALS Office of Land Grant Affairs
Centerra Wine Company, Inc.
Cornell University- Dept. of Plant Breeding & Genetics
CY Farms/Batavia Turf
Empire State Potato Growers Inc.
Erie Co. Agricultural Society
FARMING Magazine
Gunnison Lakeshore Orchards
Thomas K. Jeffers
New York Farm Viability Institute
Patterson Farms Inc.
David Shearing & Eleanor Jacobs
Upstate Farms Cooperative Inc.
Yankee Farm Credit, ACA
Geoffrey Yates

Summer Board Meeting & Tour July 6-7

Come visit the Bountiful Finger Lakes Area! Overnight accommodations and business meeting will be at the Palmyra Inn, conveniently located on Rte 21N of Thruway Exit 43 (Manchester/Palmyra). A new Inn with hot tub, fitness center, great continental breakfast and beautiful lobby and rooms.

We are scheduled to tour the Geneva Experiment Station's Food Venture Center, Wine and Beer Lab and the Ag and Tech Park on Friday afternoon. Culinary demonstration with wine pairings will delight us for dinner Friday evening at the NYS Wine and Culinary Center in Canandaigua.

Board of Director's meeting will take place on Saturday morning this year; spouses historic tour of Palmyra's museums and canal can be planned.

Plenty of activities and farming to see in the Finger Lakes area, plan to make a weekend of it!

-Beth Claypoole
Summer Meeting Chair
315-331-8415

Mark your calendar to attend our 176th Annual Forum:

Thursday, January 10th, 2008

Watch for registration materials in November & send your reservation early!

**New York State
Agricultural Society**
c/o Penny Heritage
493 Charlton Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

518-384-1715

www.nysagsociety.org

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President

From front page

The Society always seeks input from our membership, and that is YOU! Your ideas and suggestions are valuable to help create superior Forums that serve all who attend, fine-tune meaningful recognition programs and shape future projects. I urge you all to continue your active membership and help grow the Society to represent the diversity, depth and breadth of our great state's agriculture.



I look forward to working with you...

Sandie Prokop, President
New York State Agricultural Society

NYS Agricultural Society Officers

Sandie Prokop, *President*
Mike Haycook, *Vice President*
Elizabeth Claypoole, *Secretary*
Dick Church, *Treasurer*
Penny Heritage, *Exec. Sec./Publicity Coordinator*

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Richard McGuire
Shirley Palmer
Joe Peck
Pat Peck
William Rodee
Dean Smith
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Tonya Van Slyke
Judi Whittaker