

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Notice of Public Hearing



Standing Committee on Agriculture

Senator Darrel J. Aubertine

Chair

Senator Breslin
Senator Stachowski
Senator Montgomery
Senator Valesky

Senator Young
Senator Seward
Senator Winner
Senator Ranzenhofer

Subject:

Improving New York's agricultural industry through better understanding of the issues facing the agriculture community.

Purpose:

The New York State Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture has a long and successful history of working for the betterment of the agriculture industry. The committee is dedicated to ensuring that although buffeted by the current economic crisis and threatened by many negative trends New York State's number one industry will remain strong and vibrant well into the future. New York simply cannot afford to lose another industry. To that end the committee is seeking input from the public regarding the following:

- The Dairy Crisis
- Farm Worker Fair Labor Practices Act
- General Employment Issues
- DOT Rural Highway Regulations
- Mandate / Regulatory Reform
- Energy Concerns – Alternative Energy Technologies, Cost of Energy, Net Metering

Statement of Senator Aubertine, Chair:

Agriculture is New York's number one industry and the foundation of our economy as a whole, but especially in the rural parts of our state. A sound economic future for our state depends on agriculture and this industry should be a focal point in our economic development efforts. In this hearing and the roundtables leading up to it, this committee is soliciting the input of farmers and other representatives of our agricultural industry to offer their ideas, concerns and solutions, to help lawmakers set policy for New York State's role in protecting and preserving our farms and the hundreds of thousands of jobs they support both on the farm and in our communities.

Location:

Watertown - November 19, 2009, 1-4 PM
Jefferson Community College
The Jules Center, Room 6-218
1220 Coffeen Street
Watertown, New York 13601

Persons wishing to attend or testify at this hearing should fax or email the Public Hearing Reply Form to Sarah Blood, Committee Director, at 518-426-6946 or blood@senate.state.ny.us as soon as possible, but no later than November 17, 2009. It is important that the form be fully completed and returned so persons may be notified in the event of postponement or cancellation of the hearing.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture will accommodate as many witnesses as possible. The Standing Committee also encourages the submission of written testimony which will be considered by the Standing Committee and will be made part of its record. Written testimony may be e-mailed as an attachment in any common format to the Standing Committee care of Sarah Blood, Committee Director, at blood@senate.state.ny.us.

Witnesses are asked to keep oral testimony to no more than ten (10) minutes in length as a summary of submitted written testimony. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Standing Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. This request should be made on the attached reply form or to the Standing Committee staff as soon as possible. The Standing Committee may choose to group witnesses who wish to speak on the same topic into panels. If you are testifying, please submit ten (10) copies of any prepared statement at the hearing registration table.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the New York State Senate has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. Accommodations will be provided for individuals with disabilities, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Senate facilities and activities.

Questions about this hearing may be directed to Sarah Blood, Committee Director, at 518-455-2761 or blood@senate.state.ny.us.

Darrel J Aubertine, Chair
New York State Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on November 19, 2009 are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, e-mail or fax it to:

Sarah Blood, Committee Director
Legislative Office Building, Room 903, Albany, NY 12247
(518) 426-6946 (fax)
blood@senate.state.ny.us
(518) 455-2761 (phone)

_____ - I would like to testify at the hearing on November 19, 2009.

_____ - I am unable to attend but will be submitting written testimony.

_____ - I plan to attend, but do not wish to testify at the hearing on November 19, 2009.

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

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

SUBJECT OF TESTIMONY: _____

