



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Velmanette Montgomery

New Law Expands Opportunities for Farm Distilleries to Sell at Farmers' Markets, State Fairs, County Fairs

VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY October 9, 2012

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A law was recently enacted that will allow licensed farm distilleries to sell their liquor at not-for-profit farmers' markets, the New York State Fair, and recognized county fairs. Senator Montgomery noted that this new law will help local farms to grow by providing distilleries with the same access to marketing opportunities currently allowed to licensed wineries, farm wineries, and farm breweries.

Currently farm distilleries, which are required to primarily use New York State agricultural products in their New York State labeled liquors, are allowed to sample and sell their products only on their distillery premises. On the other hand, farm breweries, farm wineries, and licensed wineries are not subject to these restrictions and are allowed to sample and sell their New York State labeled products at fairs and markets across the state.

The new law will allow farm distilleries to hold liquor tastings and sell their New York State labeled products off premise at the State Fair, recognized county fairs, and local not-for-profit farmers' markets. However, they are required to have a State Liquor Authority permit, as well as have a distillery representative on site to ensure that tastings and sales are conducted responsibly. Providing farm distilleries with the same access to potential customers and markets as other wineries and breweries will help local farms to expand and flourish in New York. The law will be effective in 180 days.

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