



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Schoharie County Farmer Takes Helm As State Ag Commissioner

JAMES L. SEWARD May 6, 2014

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ALBANY, 05/06/14-- State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I – Oneonta) today congratulated Richard A. Ball following his unanimous confirmation by the New York Senate as commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

“Today is a proud day for Schoharie County and a great day for New York agriculture,” said Senator Seward. **“As a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, it was my pleasure to move the nomination of Richard Ball as commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and help usher the nomination through full senate confirmation.”**

Commissioner Ball, a longtime Schoharie County farmer, has been serving as acting commissioner since he was nominated by the governor in January.

“Richard Ball has done a great deal for Schoharie County and I am excited that his expertise is now helping farmers across the state. His profound understanding of our state’s agriculture traditions along with his innovative new ideas will help steer our farms forward.

“As a constituent of mine, I have had the good fortune to work with Richard on several occasions. I am eager to continue to grow our relationship and to work together to improve and enhance New York’s number one industry – agriculture,” Seward concluded.