

Ritchie Voices Support for Programs Key to Future of Farming at Budget Hearing

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As hearings on the 2020-2021 New York State Budget kicked off this week, Senator Ritchie took the opportunity to voice her support for programs key to the future of farming.

At Monday's Environmental Conservation hearing, Senator Ritchie shared with New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Richard Ball, her thoughts on the importance of investing in Cornell University's Harvest New York program and the

Northern New York Agricultural Development Program.

"In recent years, not only have these programs helped to support our hardworking farmers, they've also been key to the growth of New York's agriculture industry as a whole," said Senator Patty Ritchie. "With continued investments into these programs, we can help our state's leading industry continue to grow."

Additional hearings will be held in the coming weeks regarding the new State Budget, which is due on April  $1^{\text{st}}$ .

(In the above photo, Senator Ritchie is pictured at Monday's hearing in Albany with Senator Robert Ortt of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Senate District.)