

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY • SHELDON SILVER, SPEAKER



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Committee on

Agriculture

William Magee, Chairperson



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN
Joint Legislative Commission on
Dairy Industry Development

WILLIAM MAGEE
Member of Assembly
121st Assembly District

CHAIRMAN
Agriculture Committee

COMMITTEES
Aging
Banks
Higher Education
Local Governments

December 15, 2014

Honorable Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 349
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver,

As Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture, I respectfully submit to you the 2014 Annual Report. I have outlined the Committee's significant legislation as well as the Committee's priorities for the upcoming 2015 Session.

The agricultural industry is of the utmost importance to New York State. Agricultural production was over \$5.4 billion in 2012. A 2014 report by Farm Credit East estimates that the total impact on State economic output from agricultural, commercial fishing and forestry production, food processing, and off-farm services was approximately \$46 billion and generated 189,595 jobs. Dairy processing alone generated an estimated \$11.6 billion in output and created over 46,000 jobs. The 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture shows that nearly 23 percent of New York's land area, over 7.1 million acres, is used by more than 35,000 farms to produce a diverse array of food products such as dairy, fruits, vegetables, and maple syrup.

New York is the leading producer in the United States of Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, and cabbage, and ranks second in the production of apples, wine, maple syrup, and squash. Although the State has significant production of several commodities, the typical farm is family-owned and managed, and is less than half the size of the national average.

Throughout the 2014 Legislative Session, the Committee remained dedicated to promoting policies that would help New York's farms, approving legislation that passed both houses of the Legislature to provide financial support to new and beginning farmers and establish programs providing technical assistance and training. The Committee was also successful in passing several animal protection bills that would strengthen animal welfare.

In addition, the Committee's 2014 hearing on the State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget was reflective of the commitment towards agriculture in New York State. The Committee heard testimonies on a diversity of

subjects, ranging from dairy to pest control, and animal cruelty laws to Future Farmers of America. Many individuals pointed to the accomplishments they have achieved with the assistance of the State budget. This year's State budget was one of the most successful in years for agriculture. Compared to 2013, the Legislature added several million dollars in funding for new and existing programs. Agriculture budget language also established an economic development grant program and loan forgiveness program for new farmers.

While farming continues to face challenges, there are also many opportunities for growth that the State must be ready and willing to support. As always, I appreciate the support of members of the Assembly in restoring funding and advancing legislation to support the agricultural community. On behalf of New York's Agriculture Committee, I thank you for your leadership and continued encouragement and support in addressing these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Magee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Magee
Chairperson,
Committee on Agriculture

**2014 ANNUAL REPORT
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

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I. Committee Jurisdiction

The Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture is responsible for legislation that relates to the Agriculture and Markets Law, oversight of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Agriculture and Markets budget. The Committee on Agriculture collaborates closely with institutions of higher education, such as Cornell University, to promote agriculture research and development through programs such as the Quality Milk Program and Integrated Pest Management. The Agriculture Committee works to ensure the viability of New York's farms, promote the State's agricultural products, support agricultural economic development, and protect our state's farmland resources.

As part of its legislative and oversight functions, the Committee on Agriculture investigates issues related to food inspections and safety, farmland protection, farm product sales and marketing, agribusiness licensing and regulation, the humane treatment of domesticated animals, kosher laws, and animal diseases.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture also provides support and counsel for agricultural-related legislation referred to other Assembly Committees, such as the Committees on Government Operations, Labor, Economic Development, Environmental Conservation and Energy.

II. 2014 Committee Accomplishments

A. Support for New York's Farmers

New York State offers many programs and policies that assist farmers, including New York Agricultural Districts, marketing programs, training, and research. As the market and demand for agricultural products increases, it is important that the State supports farmers by improving their opportunities for technological and economic productivity. The Agriculture Committee places great importance on assisting farmers and food producers to better participate, grow, and compete in rapidly changing, competitive marketplaces.

1. Agricultural Districts: Land Used in Silvopasturing (Chapter 547 of the Laws of 2014/A.166, Magee)

Silvopasturing is the scientifically-based, ecologically-sound practice of livestock grazing in wooded areas which can yield numerous benefits for farm operations. Timber, forage, and livestock are managed intensively as a single integrated system to simultaneously produce timber products, a high quality forage resource, and efficient livestock production. In doing so, silvopasturing provides a sustainable system that offers diversified marketing opportunities for producers.

This law will explicitly recognize the concurrent use of wooded lands for production of livestock and wood products as land in agricultural production that qualifies for agricultural assessment.

2. Grow: Pride of New York Program for Nursery Dealers (Veto # 534/A.5564, Magee)

This legislation would expand the current Pride of New York program to provide promotional materials to horticulture dealers selling horticulture products produced in New York State, thus increasing their exposure to consumers. This type of branding has been shown to positively affect sales to the many buyers who prefer, and pay a premium for, products labeled as produced locally or in-state.

Horticulture dealers would be eligible for Pride program membership if no less than 25% of the items sold are New York products. Members would receive Grow: Pride of New York advertising materials, and have their business featured on the program website.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that although the bill has merit, it would impose unbudgeted costs and should be considered in the context of the State budget.

3. Procurement Training Program for Agricultural Business (Chapter 381 of the Laws of 2014/A.7572-A, Magee)

This law will provide for a training program for small food and farm businesses interested in selling to government purchasers. Under current law, state agencies, local governments, and school districts are permitted under certain conditions to give a preference to New York food producers or processors. The Office of General Service and the Departments of Economic Development and Agriculture and Markets would work together to establish an annual training program in each of the economic development regions, providing these businesses with invaluable information on navigating the procurement

process. Additionally, businesses will learn what goods are in demand but not produced in sufficient quantities.

**4. Drain Tile Revolving Loan Program
(Veto # 493/A.7706, Magee)**

Drain tile is used by farmers to draw moisture further down into the soil, providing a way for it to drain effectively and lowering the water table on an otherwise viable piece of farm land. By lowering the water table, plants are able to develop stronger roots to better absorb the oxygen and other nutrients present in the soil.

The installation of drain tile, although effective in treating subsurface water, is costly. This bill would aid farmers in the installation of drain tile by creating a revolving loan fund providing low-interest loans for the installation of tile. The fund would be administered by the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that the bill would have substantial fiscal impact due to the administration and capitalization of the revolving loan fund, and should therefore be considered in the context of the State budget.

**5. Agricultural Districts: Minimum Acreage for Creation
(Chapter 463 of the Laws of 2014/A.8026, Jaffee)**

This law will reduce the current threshold for a county to create an Agricultural District from 500 acres to 250 acres, reflecting the changes in land used for farming that have occurred since the Agricultural District Law was first passed in 1971. This change supports the desire of the public to maintain and grow the number of farms within their communities, especially in suburban counties where the total acreage is often below 500. All of the other existing provisions of the Agricultural District law, such as local input and county and state approval, would remain unchanged.

**6. Federal Food Safety Compliance Program
(Veto # 547/A.9118, Magee)**

The federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was passed in 2010. The FSMA gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) broad powers to regulate the way foods are grown, harvested, and processed. Many farmers, especially small family farms are concerned about the costs and difficulty of complying with the new law and regulations. There is a need for ongoing education, information, and technical assistance, and some farms may need to modify practices and infrastructure to comply with new requirements. This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to establish a federal food safety compliance program providing a coordinated approach to help farmers comply, using partners such as Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Department would work with the Department of Economic Development to identify sources of funding for technical assistance, infrastructure, or equipment projects.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that although the bill has merit, it is duplicative of existing programs, would impose unbudgeted costs and should be considered in the context of the State budget

7. Industrial Hemp (Chapter 524 of the Laws of 2014/A.9140, Lupardo)

The federal Agriculture Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) included a provision to allow for the cultivation of industrial hemp, as defined in the legislation, for research purposes in states that have legalized its growth. This law will allow the Department of Agriculture and Markets to authorize no more than ten sites to be used for pilot research projects to grow industrial hemp by either the Department or higher education institutions. Production of industrial hemp may have the potential for significant new economic opportunities for New York State farmers and businesses. It can be used as a food or dietary supplement, and for clothing production, auto manufacturing, and building materials.

8. Precision Agriculture (Veto #561/A.9961, Magee)

This legislation would direct the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, in consultation with the New York State Broadband Program Office of the Empire State Development Corporation to conduct a cost benefit analysis of the use of precision agriculture in New York and issue a report with recommendations relating to technical support and broadband accessibility. Ultimately, the goal is to help farmers operate their businesses more efficiently. Farmers who adopt precision agriculture systems more efficiently use production inputs, such as soil nutrients, seeds, and pesticides, leading to cost reductions and saving farmers and consumers money.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that although the bill has merit, it would impose unbudgeted costs and should be considered in the context of the State budget

B. Support for Beginning Farmers

The average age of farmers in New York State is 57 years old and continuing to rise. Agriculture is an important sector of New York's economy, but is also a source of pride for many New Yorkers who value quality, locally-grown products. Unfortunately, this industry cannot continue to grow if young people find it difficult to access farmland and break into the industry.

The Agriculture Committee has made the support of beginning farmers a priority by approving legislation to make farmland more accessible and providing loans and grants to help young farmers get started.

1. Access to Viable Agricultural Land for New and Beginning Farmers (Veto # 537/A.7002-B, Magee)

This bill would emphasize assistance for new and beginning farmers in existing state law. For example, it would require the State's Agriculture Advisory Council to provide advice to state agencies regarding tax, financial assistance, and other policies and programs that could address the needs of beginning farmers and the issues they face related to the transfer of ownership of farms. It would also encourage the identification of properties owned by the State that are viable for farming, and could be sold or leased for that purpose. This information would then be made available to those interested in purchasing or leasing those properties.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that although the bill has merit, it would impose substantial costs and should be considered in the context of the State budget

**2. Small Farm Modernization Fund Program
(A.7037-A, Santabarbara)**

This bill would have the Department of Agriculture and Markets work with Empire State Development to create the Small Farm Modernization Fund providing grants of up to \$25,000 to farms that are 150 acres or smaller. The grants could be used to help small farms modernize infrastructure, equipment, and practices, or to add new animals or crops to the farm's production. Such a program would allow small farmers to get a foothold in New York's expanding market of locally-grown products.

**3. Beginning Farmers Revolving Loan Fund Program
(Veto # 502/A.9288-A, Magee)**

This bill would create a revolving loan fund making loans available to individuals who have been farming for ten years or less and are committed to materially and substantially participating in agriculture within New York State. Incentivizing farmers to enter farming by helping them overcome start-up obstacles will allow New York to continue to grow and meet the demand for quality, fresh, and local products.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that although the proposal has merit, the bill would have substantial fiscal impact due to the administration and capitalization of the revolving loan fund, and should therefore be considered in the context of the State budget.

**4. Local Government Farmland Protection Planning
(A.9787, Barrett)**

This bill would encourage local governments to include support for the transfer of farmland to young and beginning farmers as part of their farmland protection and comprehensive plans.

C. Animal Safety and Control

New York State residents care deeply for the health and safety of their pets and other animals. The Committee prioritized legislation to strengthen animal welfare, increase penalties for theft of pets, and provide protection for purchasers of cats.

**1. Prohibit Piercing and Tattooing of Companion Animals
(Chapter 479 of the Laws of 2014/A.739-D, Rosenthal)**

This law will prohibit companion animal tattooing or piercing, unless such activity provides a medical or identification benefit. Piercing and tattooing of companion animals is a risky procedure that could lead to infection, hearing loss, or balance issues.

**2. Increases Penalties for the Theft of a Companion Animal
(Chapter 185 of the Laws of 2014/A.8185-B, Otis)**

This law will increase the fine for theft of a companion animal from \$200 to \$1000 to prevent animals being stolen and sold for profit. The penalty for this crime has not been increased in over 30 years.

**3. Allows Local Laws for Pet Dealers
(Chapter 5 of the Laws of 2014/A.8394, Rosenthal)**

This law makes technical corrections to a 2013 law authorizing municipalities to regulate pet dealers in addition to State regulation.

**4. Veterinary Examination of Cats Prior to Sale
(Chapter 528 of the Laws of 2014/A.9256, Rosenthal)**

Current law does not require cats to be examined by a veterinarian prior to sale; the law only requires exams for dogs. This law will ensure that cats purchased in New York State do not suffer from serious, life-threatening and expensive medical conditions. The veterinarian examination would help ensure that any medical condition, congenital or otherwise, is disclosed to the consumer and/or treated.

**5. Trapping, Neutering, Vaccinating, and Returning Feral Cats
(A.9487, McDonald)**

This bill would authorize up to twenty percent of the State's Animal Population Control Program fund balance to be utilized for grants to local organizations for the purpose of trapping, neutering, vaccinating and the release of feral cats. These groups may include humane societies, animal welfare organizations, and animal shelters. Research has demonstrated that these efforts are more effective at reducing feral cat populations than current efforts to trap and euthanize.

D. Protecting and Engaging Consumers

This year the Agriculture Committee approved measures to promote the involvement of senior citizens in community gardens and to make food safety violations available online. These proposals would enhance the well-being of New York State residents by keeping them informed of food safety and encouraging community engagement.

**1. Internet Posting of Food Safety and Consumer Protection Violations
(A.8220, Silver)**

This bill would require the online posting of any violation resulting from an inspection conducted by the Departments of Agriculture and Markets Division of Food Safety and Inspection for the most recent three years for which data is available. This includes inspections of retail or wholesale entities involved in handling food including, but not limited to, retail food stores, food warehouses, food manufacturers and food processors. Posting the inspection results on a State website, such as the Department's or Open New York, would provide the public easier access to violation information, especially for food purchased when a consumer doesn't physically visit the establishment where it was produced or sold.

**2. Increase Opportunities for Seniors to Participate in Community Gardens
(Chapter 525 of the Laws of 2014/A.9381, Millman)**

This law will expand the goals of the State's Community Garden Task Force to increase opportunities for seniors to participate in community gardens. It will deem senior centers and the elderly as being eligible for assistance, support, and cooperation from the Department of Agriculture and Markets Office of Community Gardens. Community gardening can promote involvement in the neighborhood and help maintain an active, healthier lifestyle for seniors

E. Other Legislation

**1. Local Fairgrounds
(Chapter 488 of the Laws of 2014/A.5360, Magee)**

This bill will clarify the existing authority for an association of farmers to host exhibitions and events on their fairgrounds in addition to fair week. It will further clarify that local government restrictions on fairground events are limited to protecting public health and safety.

**2. Regulation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers
(Veto # 513/A.6804, Magee)**

This bill seeks to protect the consumer, and propane dealer who owns the consumer's tank, by limiting fuel transfers and re-filling to the owner of the propane tank or those authorized in writing by the owner of the propane tank. This would apply only to propane tanks over 20 gallons, not smaller tanks used for everyday recreational use.

This bill passed the Assembly and Senate and was vetoed by the Governor. The veto message argued that this bill has the potential to limit consumers' ability to choose their propane supplier and would shift the cost of enforcing the private contract rights of propane tank owners to the taxpayers of New York.

**3. Pro-Rate Food Processing Establishment License Fees
(Chapter 447 of the Laws of 2014/A.9121C, Magee)**

This law will help certain small, family-run food businesses with the costs of licensing. It will authorize the Department to apply a portion of the license fee from a closed food processing or retail food business towards a new license when the new establishment is opened by the same owner. The Department would have discretion to determine how the fees would be prorated and applied to a new license.

E. Hearings/Roundtables

On November 13 and 24, 2014, the Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture co-sponsored roundtables in Albany and NYC on Waste Reduction, Food Donation, and Materials Recovery at State and Local Government Food Service Operations with the Assembly Task Force on Food, Farm, and Nutrition Policy, the Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, and the Assembly Legislative Commission on Governmental Administration. The roundtables reviewed and explored policies and programs that would optimize procurement, promote sustainability, and reduce excess waste from government-operated and contracted food service operations. The discussion focused on potential practices to maximize food donation and recovery, as well as other uses for organic waste, such as composting or anaerobic digesters in the agricultural sector.

On December 12, 2014, the Committee held a budget/oversight hearing on the 2014-2015 State Budget for programs administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The hearing examined the overall impact, implementation and effectiveness of agriculture, food, and animal protection programs. The panel received testimony on the benefits of several programs, and the need for enhancements to those programs and new initiatives in the 2015-16 budget.

F. Agriculture Budget 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 Enacted Budget increased support for agriculture in New York State. The Legislature demonstrated its interest in promoting and protecting agriculture by adding funding for programs related to marketing, research, education, and support. The final budget restored funding for programs such as the Wine and Grape Foundation and the Farm Viability Institute, added additional funds for existing programs such as Hops and Animal Health programs, and created new initiatives such as Apple Research and Maple Research.

An Add represents additional or new funding for a program compared to the previous year and a Restoration denotes the Legislature restoring funding to the previous year's level.

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget
		Adds	Restorations	
<i>Marketing and Research Support</i>				
Cornell University Honeybee Research		\$50,000		\$50,000
Cornell University Maple Research		\$105,000		\$105,000
Cornell University Onion Research		\$50,000		\$50,000
Cornell University Vegetable Research		\$100,000		\$100,000
Geneva Hop Evaluation and Field Testing Program	\$40,000	\$160,000		\$200,000
NYS Apple Growers Association	\$206,000		\$544,000	\$750,000
NYS Apple Research and Development		\$500,000		\$500,000
NYS Christmas Tree Growers		\$20,000	\$100,000	\$120,000
NYS Corn and Soybean Growers		\$75,000		\$75,000
NYS Maple Producers Association			\$150,000	\$150,000
Promotion of Agricultural Arts (Fairs)	\$340,000	\$160,000		\$500,000
Taste NY	\$1,100,000			\$1,100,000
Wine and Grape Foundation	\$713,000		\$287,000	\$1,000,000
Wood Products Development Council		\$100,000		\$100,000

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget
		Adds	Restorations	
<i>Farmer Support Services</i>				
Agribusiness Child Development Program	\$6,521,000		\$1,000,000	\$7,521,000
Farm Family Assistance	\$384,000	\$200,000	\$16,000	\$600,000
Farm Viability Institute	\$400,000		\$1,100,000	\$1,500,000
Geneva Seed Inspection Program	\$128,000			\$128,000
Pro Dairy Program /Dairy Profit Teams	\$972,000	\$150,000	\$70,000	\$1,192,000
Tractor Rollover Protection Program		\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
<i>Animal and Plant Health</i>				
Animal Care and Control of NYC		\$250,000		\$250,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Animal Health Surveillance and Control	\$4,425,000	\$1,000,000		\$5,425,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Avian Disease	\$252,000			\$252,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Cattle Health	\$360,000			\$360,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Johnes Disease	\$480,000			\$480,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Quality Milk	\$1,174,000			\$1,174,000
Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab – Rabies	\$50,000	\$260,000	\$200,000	\$510,000
Cornell Golden Nematode Program	\$62,000			\$62,000
Eastern Equine Encephalitis		\$25,000	\$150,000	\$175,000
North Country Vaccination		\$5,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
NYS Berry Growers Fruit Fly Control		\$120,000	\$200,000	\$320,000
<i>Education</i>				
Agriculture Educators Association	\$66,000			\$66,000
Agriculture in the Classroom	\$80,000			\$80,000

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget
		Adds	Restorations	
Future Farmers of America	\$192,000	\$158,000		\$350,000
Genesee-Livingston- Steuben-Wyoming BOCES Agricultural Academy		\$100,000		\$100,000
<i>Environmental Management</i>				
Integrated Pest Management	\$500,000			\$500,000
Turf Grass Environmental Stewardship			\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Regional Programs</i>				
Grown on Long Island		\$100,000		\$100,000
Island Harvest			\$20,000	\$20,000
North Country Agriculture Development		\$100,000	\$500,000	\$600,000
Total	\$18,445,000	\$3,838,000	\$4,607,000	\$26,890,000

III. 2015 Outlook

In 2014, the Standing Committee on Agriculture continued to expand opportunities for farmers, improve research and technology, enhance consumer safety, and protect pets and other animals. The Agriculture Committee expects in the coming year to continue its past success in approving policies and programs that support farmers from the beginning of their careers to the time they pass their farms to a new generation. Farmers need affordable land, assistance during times of natural and financial emergencies, marketing and promotion programs for their products in local, regional and international markets, and technical support when addressing the many regulatory requirements they face.

In addition, the Agriculture Committee will work to provide consumers with a plentiful supply of local foods to eat and farms to visit. That includes exploring opportunities with the wholesale and retail food and beverage industries, including food stores, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants as well as institutional buyers such as government agencies, schools and universities.

The Agriculture Committee approved several measures to protect the health and safety of animals in 2014 and expects these issues to continue to be a significant part of the Committee's mission.

APPENDIX A
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
DURING THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills
<u>Bills Reported With or Without Amendment</u>			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee (Favorable)	1		1
To Ways & Means	10		10
To Codes	14		14
To Rules	3		3
To Judiciary	0		0
Total	28		28
<u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u>	0		0
<u>Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled</u>			
Substituted		2	2
Recalled		1	1
Total		3	3
<u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u>	0	0	0
<u>Bills Held for Consideration with a Roll-Call Vote</u>	17	0	17
<u>Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee</u>	119	17	136
<u>Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken</u>	4	0	4
<u>Motions to Discharge Lost</u>	0	0	0
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	168	20	188
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD	7		

APPENDIX B
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE CHAPTERS

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.166	Magee	This bill would make “land used in silvopasturing” eligible for benefits of the Agricultural Districts program. Chapter 547 of the Laws of 2014
A.739-D	Rosenthal	This law will prohibit the piercing and tattooing of companion animals except done in conjunction with a medical procedure for the benefit of a companion animal. Chapter 479 of the Laws of 2014
A.5360	Magee	This law will clarify that associations of farmers may use fairgrounds for exhibits and exhibitions during times other than the fair, and limits the regulation of fairground use by local governments. Chapter 488 of the Laws of 2014
A.7572-A	Magee	This law will provide for a training program for small food and farm businesses interested in selling to government purchasers. Chapter 381 of the Laws of 2014
A.8026-A	Jaffee	This law will reduce the current threshold for a county to create an Agricultural District from 500 acres to 250 acres. Chapter 463 of the Laws of 2014
A.8185-B	Otis	This law will raise the fine for theft of a companion animal from \$200 to \$1000 to prevent animals being stolen and sold for profit. Chapter 185 of the Laws of 2014
A.8394	Rosenthal	This law will make changes to a 2013 law that authorized municipalities to create local laws and rules relating to pet dealers. Chapter 5 of the Laws of 2014
A.9121-C	Magee	This law will authorize the Department of Agriculture and Markets to prorate a person’s license fee if he or she leaves a food processing establishment and applies for a new license within a year. Chapter 447 of the Laws of 2014

A.9140	Lupardo	This law will authorize the growing of industrial hemp for research purposes. Chapter 524 of the Laws of 2014
A.9256	Rosenthal	This law will require cats to be examined by a veterinarian prior to sale. Chapter 528 of the Laws of 2014
A.9381	Millman	This law will expand the goals of the Community Garden Task Force to increase opportunities for seniors to participate in community gardens. Chapter 525 of the Laws of 2014

APPENDIX C
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
BILLS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.1204	Zebrowski	This bill would restrict the performance of surgical devocalization on dogs and cats.
A.4125	Cook	This bill would create an advisory board on food safety and inspection programs within the Department of Agriculture and Markets.
A.5564	Magee	This bill would create a Grow: Pride of New York program for nursery dealers, allowing them access to promotional materials and marketing opportunities, provided that at least 25% of their horticultural products are from New York State. Veto # 534
A.6804	Magee	This bill would prohibit the filling, emptying, or use of any liquefied petroleum gas container except by the owner thereof, or by a person authorized in writing by the owner. Veto # 513
A.7002-B	Magee	This bill would help beginning farmers find resources regarding purchase of farmland as well as guide them in what farmland may potentially be available. Veto # 537
A.7037-A	Santabarbara	This bill would create the Small Farm Modernization Fund program.
A.7706	Magee	This bill would create a revolving loan fund that would provide low-interest loans to farmers for the costs associated with the installation of drain tile in their fields. Veto # 493
A.8220	Silver	This bill would require the internet posting of any inspection violation found in the past three years by the Department of Agriculture and Market's Division of Food Safety and Inspection.
A.9118	Magee	This bill would authorize the creation of a federal food safety compliance program providing a coordinated approach to help farmers comply with new federal food safety laws. Veto # 547

A.9288-A	Magee	This bill would create a beginning farmer revolving loan fund program. Veto # 502
A.9487	McDonald	This bill would authorize up to twenty percent of the State's Animal Population Control Program fund balance to be utilized for grants to local organizations for the purpose of trapping, neutering, vaccinating and returning feral cats to the area from which they were trapped.
A.9787	Barrett	This bill would encourage local governments to include support for the transfer of farmland to young and beginning farmers in their municipal plans.
A.9961	Magee	This bill would direct an assessment and report on the use of precision agriculture and broadband by farmers. Veto # 561