



Press Release  
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## 2009 Empire Farm Days Winners Announced

Seneca Falls, NY - Everyone who attends Empire Farm Days obtains information they can use to improve their farm operation. Some lucky attendees of the annual three-day agricultural extravaganza held on 300 acres of the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls take home even more.

**Apple and cherry grower Gary DeBadts of Sodus, NY is the winner of the Empire Farm Days' drawing for a Kubota RTV 500 sponsored by KUBOTA.** DeBadts farms with his brother, son and nephew. The farm is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation operation comprised of 500 acres.

When notified of his prize, DeBadts said, "I never win anything. We show up every year to Empire Farm Days, but I've never gotten a call like this before."

**Barbara Lang of Alden, NY, won the Empire Farm Days Equine Center saddle** from the Equine Center sponsored by EFD. Lang, a part-time beef producer with husband, raises 60 head of cattle on 180 acres. She has had horses in the past. Upon learning she had won the saddle, Lang said, "This is an awesome thing to have happen and will certainly encourage me to get back into horses."

**Corn producer Leo Ludwin of Taberg, NY, won the tool set sponsored by Cook Iron Store at the Empire Farm Days Compact Tractor Ride and Drive Experience.** Ludwin said, "I try to get to EFD every year. I am looking for something a bit larger (in a tractor), but I gave the compacts a try. The compacts gave me a good feel for the different machines."

**Chris Kaiser of Canastota, NY, is the winner of the quarter-ounce American Gold Eagle Coin, a postcard entry promotion sponsored by Empire Farm Days.**

"I grew up on a cash crop farm in Ovid, NY, and my dad always took me to Empire Farm Days. This year, I took my son, who just turned six, and he had to sit in every tractor and every combine. Winning the coin was an added bonus," Kaiser says.

**The FFA and 4-H student winners of the FFA/4-H Youth Tractor Safety Contest** at Empire Farm Days (EFD) each receive a certificate, a \$1,000 scholarship to SUNY Cobleskill and the opportunity to compete in the Northeast regional contest at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts in September. The contest is sponsored by equipment dealers, the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health, Jasper-Troupsburg Central School, Madison Central School, Cornell University and Empire Farm

Days. **The winner of the 2009 FFA section of the contest is Alex Brewer of Jasper-Troupsburg Central School FFA. The 4-H section winner is Tyler Perry of Wyoming County.**

**The student winners of the New York State FFA Welding Contest** hosted by Morrisville State College and sponsored by Haun Welding, Clinton Tractor, the Calidonna family and Ferris Mowers of Munnsville at Empire Farm Days were:

**High Team Performance: Pioneer Central School FFA**

Individual Performance 1<sup>st</sup> Place: (\$1,000 scholarship):

**Josh Hartwell, Pioneer Central School FFA**

Individual Performance 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: (\$750 scholarship):

**Jack Dombrowski, Pioneer Central School FFA**

Individual Performance 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: (\$500 scholarship):

**Taylor Dorrity, South Lewis Central School FFA.**

At the 2009 Empire Farm Days Ag Leaders Luncheon, **Corey Reed of Adams Center, NY, received the 2009 Empire State Potato Growers Scholarship** that will provide \$500 per academic year for up to four consecutive years of agricultural education. Reed has begun majoring in agricultural science education at Cornell University.

“The Empire State Potato Growers’ annual scholarship honors an outstanding student who is ready to make a strong positive impact on the agricultural industry and has a bright future ahead. Corey Reed has proven himself to be an enthusiastic and skilled flagbearer for New York agriculture and we are happy to support his educational and career aspirations,” said Empire State Potato Growers Scholarship Chairman John Meyer in presenting Corey with his award.

Also at the 2009 Empire Farm Days Ag Leaders Luncheon **New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker presented the Environmental Management Award to Tom and Elaine Trinder and herdsperson Nancy Wood of Trinder Farm in Pompey, NY.** This award is co-sponsored by the Empire State Potato Growers, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and American Agriculturist magazine. The Trinders, whose dairy was certified organic in 2009, buried more than 10 miles of underground drainage to reduce soil erosion.

Tom Trinder said, “This is a very important award because it is not self-serving, but represents doing something to help everybody. Preserving the environment should be on everyone’s mind and we hope this award inspires other farmers to incorporate environmental management practices in their operations.”

Planning for the August 10-12, 2010 edition of Empire Farm Days is already underway. For more details, contact Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham, 877-697-7837, [mwickham@empirefarmdays.com](mailto:mwickham@empirefarmdays.com).