



Press Release
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**Precision Agriculture, New Equipment, Latest Technology a Hit at 2009 Empire Farm Days;
Plan to Attend 2010 Event August 10-12**

Seneca Falls, NY - Empire Farm Days provides farmers with take-home value from cost-saving ideas to a look at the latest technology and techniques for farm management, whether you are a dairy, livestock, crops, maple or equine producer.

The annual August extravaganza is held at Rodman Lott and Sons Farms in Seneca Falls, NY. The 2009 event was the 76th Empire Farm Days. Host farmer Ralph Lott says, "This is the place to learn what you need to operate more efficiently" and retired Cornell Cooperative Extension educator Jim Capron agrees. Capron moderated three panels of farmers talking about their experiences with GPS systems on tractors large and small.

"Empire Farm Days is a great place for people to share ideas. Each of the GPS panelists presented a different twist on equipment, systems and options for using precision agriculture for tillage applications, cost savings, and mapping yields and manure applications," Capron says.

Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham says the GPS ride and drive experience was popular, offering the opportunity to operate a compact or full-size tractor equipped with precision-guided technology. Field demonstrations at Empire Farm Days showed the latest in chopping, tilling, mowing and handling forage and highlighted the latest research by the USDA on growing grass for biofuel production and by Cornell University on mortality composting. The EFD Equine Center round pen demonstrations drew crowds.

New York Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) Education and Outreach Coordinator Sharon Scofield says farmers and their families stopped by the NYCAMH tent. She says, "Just a few minutes spent to refresh yourself on safety precautions or for a quick test can be a lifesaver. Empire Farm Days offers a pleasant setting to learn about the latest safety equipment such as the rollover protection systems (ROPS) for tractors, farm emergency response, and personal protective equipment and to have a quick screening for skin cancer, blood pressure or hearing loss."

The 2010 dates for Empire Farm Days are August 10, 11 and 12. Watch www.empirefarmdays.com for details or contact Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham, 877-697-7837, mwickham@empirefarmdays.com. #

Photo: Nancy Grammar, a representative with Outback Guidance, invited farmers attending Empire Farm Days to test drive a GPS-equipped tractor. GPS panel discussions at the three-day agricultural extravaganza highlighted the many ways farmers across New York are using GPS. Photo: Nick Wickham

Photo: Youngsters learn how to handle a fire extinguisher at the New York Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health exhibit at the 2009 Empire Farm Days. Photo: NYCAMH

Empire Farm Days is hosted By: Rodman Lott & Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY
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