



Press Release

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Jpg: Natural Resource Conservation Service staff will be at the 2010 Empire Farm Days to answer questions with seven other USDA agencies.

Meet 8 Agencies at USDA Services Center at August 10-12, 2010 Empire Farm Days

Seneca Falls, NY - The USDA is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2010. NRCS and seven other USDA agencies will staff the USDA Services Center at the August 10-12, 2010 Empire Farm Days at Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls, NY. Visitors can pick up information and speak with USDA staff about competing in today's agricultural economy, ensuring the health and care of plants and animals, farm business financing, farm disaster assistance, and farm, forest, and rural development conservation.

The USDA Center also features a 200-square-foot NRCS garden and the Agricultural Research Service will demonstrate small-scale wet and dry seed processing. Farmers can bring their own seed for hands-on training in seed processing with experts from the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit in Geneva, NY.

Topics for presentations and activities at the Center will be posted each day at the USDA Services Center on West Seneca Avenue at the 300-acre event site.

The following agencies will be participating at the Center with staff available for answer questions:

- **Agricultural Research Service (ARS):** serves as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency. It conducts research addressing issues vital to sustain a competitive agricultural economy.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS):** provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. Its broad mission area includes protecting and promoting agricultural health, administering the Animal Welfare Act and carrying out wildlife damage management activities.
- **Farm Services Agency (FSA):** 43 New York FSA field offices administer farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans, conservation and environmental programs, and emergency and disaster assistance.
- **Finger Lakes National Forest (U.S. Forest Service):** one of 100 national forests and the only one in New York State. It covers 16,000 acres.

- **National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS):** conducts hundreds of surveys annually and prepares reports covering virtually every facet of U.S. agriculture.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):** provides the highest level of conservation resources to land owners through its numerous financial-incentive programs, grants, and technical assistance services. Its staff of experts in the fields of resource conservation, soil science, engineering, and program management is available to assist you in your conservation efforts.
- **Rural Development:** serves as the department's economic and community development arm. It has 10 offices located around the state and provides grants, loans and loan guarantees through its business, utilities, community facilities and housing programs.
- **New York Federation of RC&D Councils:** the federation and its eight Resource Conservation and Development Councils provide leadership for the development and implementation of a plan for the conservation, improvement and wise use of natural resources.

The 300-acre Empire Farms Days agricultural extravaganza also includes Dairy Profit Seminars, live animals, an Equine Center, farm safety and family life displays and activities, 600-plus representatives of agricultural institutions and organizations, GPS-equipped and compact tractor test drives, and chicken, beef and pork BBQ. For more details, contact Empire Farm Days Manager Melanie Wickham at 877-697-7837, mwickham@empirefarmdays.com. #

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