

## A Message From Commissioner Ball

To New York's agricultural community:

While New York State's efforts to mitigate the impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continue, I want to assure our community that our food producing farms, food and beverage manufacturers, agri-businesses, operations responsible for animal health, and related support industries are open and are not restricted from operating to provide food for our families and care for our animals. Agriculture and the food supply chain are essential industries and exceptions have been made to ensure our vital work can continue.

The Department continues its operations and inspections and is in constant contact with our farms and agri-businesses. We are also encouraging consumers to remain strong in their support of local farms and agri-businesses during this time. It is more important now than ever that New Yorkers know that the State and our agricultural community are working together.

In an effort to keep the industry informed on this rapidly evolving situation, we have provided additional details and guidance on our website at <a href="mailto:agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus">agriculture.ny.gov/coronavirus</a>. It will be updated as new information is available. Additional information and guidance are also available on the Department of Health's website at coronavirus.health.ny.gov/.