



# ALLIANCE UPDATE

Electronic news update of the Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance, Inc.

*MAY-JUNE 2018*

### Alliance Co-sponsoring Special Screening of FOOD EVOLUTION Documentary Film

The Alliance, BIO, NY Farm Bureau, NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association invite you to join them on June 6th at the Albany Capital Center starting at 5:30PM for an exclusive screening of the one-hour documentary FOOD EVOLUTION.



Amidst the polarizing debate marked by passion, suspicion and confusion, FOOD EVOLUTION, explores the controversy surrounding GMOs and food. Traveling from Hawaiian papaya groves to banana farms in Uganda to the corn and soybean fields of New York, the film, wrestles with the emotions and the science driving one of the most heated arguments of our time.

Sarah Evanega, PhD, Director of the Alliance for Science at Cornell University will introduce this special screening and host a discussion afterwards featuring a panel of experts:

- Matthew Willman, PhD, Director, Plant Transformation Facility, Cornell University
- Jessica Ziehm, Dairy Farmer, Tiashoke Farm, Executive Director, NY Animal Agriculture Coalition
- Jim Davenport, Dairy Farmer, Tollgate Holsteins, President, Columbia County Farm Bureau

A reception will be held before and after the one hour film. Join us for this special screening, discussion and networking reception at NO COST.

Please register here <https://impactflow.com/event/food-evolution-screening-reception-8302> as limited seats are available.

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### Alliance Supports Crop Insurance Amendments

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance joined nearly 70 other agricultural and

conservation organizations in signing a letter sent to members of the House of Representatives stating support for the historical structure of the crop insurance program funded through the Farm Bill. The letter explained concern regarding proposed changes to crop insurance that would reduce the value of the risk management tool to farmers across the country.

Over the past three years the House Agriculture Committee has conducted numerous hearings and listening sessions throughout the country to talk about priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill. One consistent theme from these meetings was “do no harm to crop insurance.”

During debate on the bill in mid-May, Rep. Tom McClintock (R-California) introduced an amendment that would have effectively eliminated the crop insurance program. The amendment was considered but failed in an overwhelming 380-34 vote. Later, the U.S. House of Representatives voted down H.R. 2, “The Agriculture and Nutrition Act” by Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Texas), by a vote of 198-213. Seventeen representatives did not vote.

The close “no” vote on the Farm Bill was mainly a result of political debate over an unrelated immigration bill, as well as controversy related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Members of the House continue to debate these issues.

Without crop insurance most producers simply could not qualify for the operating loans they need to put a crop in the ground. Due to extremely tight margins in agriculture, regulators examining agriculture lending portfolios typically insist borrowers have crop insurance.

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### **Agriculture Commissioner Encourages Dairy Farmers To Sign-Up For The Margin Protection Program**

#### ***June 1 Deadline Approaching for Dairy Farmers to Enroll in One-Year Program Farmers Could See Payments as Soon as June, No Premiums Due Until September***

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball encourages New York’s dairy farmers to consider signing up for the Margin Protection Program (MPP) - Dairy by the June 1 deadline. Earlier this year, the United States Department of Agriculture updated the MPP, changing the value of the program for small to midsize dairy producers, reducing premiums, and increasing coverage. Because the margins have already been calculated for the first months of 2018, farmers who sign up now—depending on the coverage level selected—could see payments as soon as June and would not be charged a premium until September. Farmers also have the option to offset their premium costs with their payment and not face any out of pocket expense, aside from the \$100 administrative fee.

**Commissioner Ball said**, “For the past several years, MPP was flawed and not meeting the needs of our dairy farmers. The changes made by USDA this year are a major improvement and almost guarantee farmers will receive financial relief, which is critical during these challenging times. I encourage farmers to review their options, use the online MPP Decision Tool and talk to staff at their local FSA to make an informed decision that is best for their family and operation.”

MPP pays dairy farmers when the difference between the national all-milk price and the national average feed cost (the margin) falls below a dollar amount elected by the producer. With the new MPP modifications, enrollment was re-opened and dairy producers now have until June 1 to enroll for 2018. Some of the key changes to MPP for 2018 are:

- First tier of coverage was raised from four to five million pounds.
- The cost of premiums for buy-up coverage on the first tier was cut by as much as 70 percent from previous levels.
- The margin is calculated monthly, rather than a two-month average.
- Limited resource, beginning, veteran and disadvantaged producers are exempted from paying the administrative fee. (Dairy operators enrolled in the previous 2018 enrollment period that qualify for this exemption under the new provisions may request a refund.)

The State Department of Agriculture and Markets is also encouraging farmers who are already enrolled in the program for 2018, to reevaluate their coverage options and, if they would like to make changes, re-register their election by June 1. Both new and existing enrollees can use the [MPP Decision Tool](#) or visit a local Farm Service Agency office to determine their coverage plan.

According to the USDA, farmers who sign-up at a certain coverage level should expect a payout from the new MPP for the February and March margins the week of June 4. The margin for the month of April is expected to be announced by USDA tomorrow, May 30.

The margins for the first three months of 2018 were:

- For January 2018, the margin was \$8.12 per cwt, so no payment was made at any level.
- For February, the margin was \$6.88 per cwt, leading to a payment of \$1.12 per cwt if a farm selects the \$8.00 coverage level.
- For March, the margin was \$6.77 per cwt, leading to a payment of \$1.23 per cwt at the \$8.00 coverage level.

All producers who want coverage for 2018 must register by close of business on June 1, 2018 by following these steps:

- Completing form CCC-782 and submitting the forms in person at a local FSA office.
  - Click here to access the forms that must be completed: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/Dairy-MPP/index>
  - Click here to access a listing of the USDA FSA offices by county: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ny&agency=fsa>
- Elect a coverage level.
- Pay the \$100 administrative fee (unless you qualify for a waiver as listed above).

Payments under MPP-Dairy may be reduced by 6.6% due to a sequester order required by Congress and issued pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Should a payment reduction be necessary, FSA will reduce the payment by the required amount.

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### **Garelick Farms to Shut Fluid Milk Plant**

Citing a “nationwide decrease in milk consumption,” Garelick Farms will close its Lynn, Massachusetts dairy plant. Hundreds of employees will lose their jobs when the well-known Massachusetts based dairy company shuts the doors to its 90-year-old factory. The plant, which opened in 1928, employs 300 people and is one of the city’s largest employers.

Garelick Farms was founded by brothers Israel and Max Garelick in Franklin, Massachusetts. Family owned until the late 1990s, Garelick Farms is now a subsidiary of Dallas-based Dean Foods with more than 1,600 employees. It is unclear what the closure date for the plant will be.

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### **Calderwood Going to AFIA**



Louise Calderwood, the current government relations and communications director for the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance, has been hired to serve as the director of regulatory affairs for the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA). She will start in her new position on July 2, in Arlington, Virginia. It is a bittersweet transition for the Alliance as we lose a valued partner, but wish her well in her expanded role in agricultural advocacy.

Joining the Alliance in 2007, Louise has worked closely with Rick Zimmerman and the board to respond to legislative issues at the regional and national level. With her assistance the Alliance has increased its engagement in educational efforts for members, legislators and regulators, and the general public. She has been an active part of our advocacy team. Louise has strengthened our collaborative efforts through her many connections across New England and New York.

Louise’s last day with the Alliance will coincide with the Golf for Good Works reception; be sure

to visit with her and wish her well as she transitions to a new phase in her support of modern agriculture.



### **Golf for Good Works Raises Funds for Agricultural Outreach and Education**

First cutting is on its way to the silo and warm weather is calling the farmer in all of us to spend more time outside. This is the perfect time of year to gather with friends at the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NEAFA) Golf for Good Works Tournament on June 28 and 29 at the Shenandoah Golf Course at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York.

Proceeds from Golf for Good Works support agricultural outreach and education programs in New York and New England. Over the last twelve years NEAFA has donated more than \$95,000 to activities in New York and New England.

Regionally, several contributions have been made to the Northeast Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, the Green Pastures Dairy Farmer of the Year program and educational trips for dairy science students from Vermont Technical College and UMASS. A recent contribution to the Vermont Horse Council will assist in completion of a study on the economic impact of horses in Vermont.

NEAFA is eager to support events throughout the northeast that invite the public to visit working dairy farms and learn about the care farmers give to their animals, the soil and water. Organizers of these types of events are encouraged to contact the Alliance Good Works Committee at [info@northeastalliance.com](mailto:info@northeastalliance.com).

Sponsorship deadline for the tournament is June 8 and registration closes on June 20. Information on the many sponsorship opportunities and the event registration form are available at <https://www.northeastalliance.com/upcoming-neafa-events/2018/6/28/golf-for-good-works>. Interest in the event is high, so be sure to register early and reserve your spot in the tournament.

### **MEMBER NEWS**

#### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Alliance board member Clayton Wood and his wife Katie, the new parents of Henry Herbert Wood & Annie Kate Wood , born May 17, 2018 @ 9:44 & 9:46 PM.

Henry weighed 6 lbs 10 oz and little Annie was 5 lbs 11 oz. The twins were born about a month early and Henry spent 10 days at Strong's Children's Hospital in Rochester to support his lung development.

Clayton reports that both babies are home now and happy that they're back together.



## Calendar

### **J. David Ferris Memorial 4-H Golf Open**

June 1, 2018

Country Club of Ithaca

Ithaca, NY

*For more information:* [www.nys4hfoundation.org/golf](http://www.nys4hfoundation.org/golf)

### **Food Evolution Screening & Reception**

June 6, 2018

Albany Capital Center

Albany, NY

*For more information:* <https://impactflow.com/event/food-evolution-screening-reception-8302>

### **American Feed Industry Association's biennial Feed Industry Institute (FII)**

June 11-14, 2018

Saint Louis, MS

*For more information:* <http://www.cvent.com/events/afia-feed-industry-institute/event-summary-946745dbb75c4369ab98b6cb943df614.aspx>

### **2018 ADSA Annual Meeting**

June 24-27, 2018

Knoxville Convention Center

Knoxville, TN

*For more information:* <https://www.adsa.org/2018/>

### **NEAFA Golf for Good Works Tournament**

June 28-29, 2018

Turning Stone Resort Casino

Shenandoah Golf Club

*For more information:* <https://www.northeastalliance.com/upcoming-neafa-events/2018/6/28/golf-for-good-works>

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