



Northeast
Agribusiness
& Feed Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance Meets with New York Legislators

Members of the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NEAFA) hosted individual meetings with 25 members of the New York State Assembly and Senate as part of a Lobby Day in early February. Twenty members of the Alliance moved in five teams through the New York Capitol complex to engage with legislators and their staff.

One of the teams was comprised of David Taylor of Trouw Nutrition, Caroline Potter of Cornell PRO-DAIRY and NEAFA board member Greg McCulloch. In meetings with Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner and staff of Minority Leader Brian Kolb the team stressed the importance of funding for Cornell Extension, Integrated Pest Management, and Cornell PRO-DAIRY. Taylor remarked "I now see the importance of sharing our story with legislators. They really seemed interested to learn about our business and the significance of state funding in support of agriculture."

Another team included Rene Lavoie of DFA Farm Supplies, Matt Saville of Micronutrients and Ricky Scuderi of Mercer Milling. Meetings included Assemblyman Bob Oaks, Ranking Minority Leader on the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Budget restorations for crucial agricultural programs were the topics of the day.

A third team consisted of Mike Meyers of APEX, Dave Grusenmeyer, Farm Viability Institute, John Clark, NEAFA Vice President, and Jeff Matuszcak, Mercer Milling met with several legislators including Senator James Seward of Oneonta. Seward is a strong supporter of the agriculture industry and committed to the agricultural budget priorities advocated by the Alliance.

NEAFA is part of a coalition of New York agricultural organizations who work together to assure state support of key educational programs for farmers and related businesses. One example of successful use of state support is the New York Farm Viability Institute. During ten years of funding the program has awarded \$15,429,527 to farms and other businesses that has generated \$108,866,604 in revenues, capital investment and savings; a more than seven fold return on investment.

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance is a 300 member organization committed to supporting a thriving northeast agricultural community through advocacy, education and collaboration. Members of the Alliance include feed, seed, fertilizer companies, financial service providers, transportation companies, veterinarians, nutritional services providers, and professional advisors.

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L to R: Ricky Scuderi, Assemblyman Bob Oaks, Matt Saville, Rene Lavoie



Senator Jim Seward, center, is joined (L-R) by Mike Weyers, Dave Grusenmeyer, John Clark and Jeff Matuszcak



Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner of Washington County, second from the left, met with a team of NEAFA advocates including Caroline Potter, left, Louise Calderwood right of Woerner and David Taylor, right.

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