

NY Farms!

May 18, 2009

Hello Friends of NY Farms!,

We wanted to make sure you are all aware of important funding that was just announced last week.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES \$845,000 FOR NY ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Federal Funds Encourage NRCS Conservation Practices, Organic Production

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced the availability of nearly \$845,000 to encourage organic production in New York State. The funding is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) as part of its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

"With the growing trend of organic agriculture here in New York, we are particularly pleased that the new Farm Bill is helping farmers fund conservation practices that will in turn aid in their transition to organic production," the Commissioner said. "Farmers who are currently in the transition process, as well as those who are certified organic, are eligible to take advantage of USDA's EQIP Organic Initiative funding and encouraged to do so."

The 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative was included in the 2008 Farm Bill to provide financial assistance to certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. The program has \$845,562 designated for New York producers, and will provide payments and technical assistance to transitioning and existing organic farmers who adopt NRCS conservation practices.

[Read more here>>>](#)

Sign-up for the program begins May 11 and continues through May 29, 2009 at county NRCS offices. Additional information on the 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative is available at <http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/>

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