

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New York Agri-Women Meet-Ups Planned Throughout the State

A year after its creation, New York Agri-Women currently has planned several meet-ups throughout state including Cayuga, Onondaga, Tompkins, Chataqua, Orange, and Suffolk counties. "I'm very excited to see New York Agri-Women picking up momentum at the county level," says Cari Rincker, President and founding member of New York Agri-Women. "I have been impressed with the female leadership and talent involved in the New York food and agriculture industry and am looking forward to the future of the organization in years to come."

New York Agri-Women will be having a chicken luncheon for women involved in the food and agriculture community in Cayuga, Onondaga and Tompkins counties on Saturday, August 20th from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Ward W. O'Hara Agriculture Museum located at 6880 Rt. 38A, Auburn, NY 13110. The guest speaker for the day will be Chris Fesko who plans to "talk real" to women involved in the ag industry. The cost to attend the event is \$20. Please RSVP to Molly Zorn, the Tompkins County Leader and Treasurer of New York Agri-Women, at mzorn@crinet.com.

Julie Patterson, the Cayuga County Leader and Chair of the New York Agri-Women Membership Committee, understands that in this digital age there are a myriad ways for women to communicate with one another, including social media. However, she notes that "there is nothing more rewarding than communicating in person to make real connections with other woman involved in the agriculture community." She adds, "being able to meet with other ladies who share similar passions is the best part."

Erica Leubner, the Onondaga County Leader, shares similar views. Leubner recognized that "every profession has a network that can be tapped in times of need or for camaraderie. Agriculture can be isolating at times; therefore, it is especially important for women to meet others that share a common lifestyle and goals."

Karen Barie Keough, the County Leader for Chataqua County, will be addressing the Lake Erie Women's Ag Group on August 25, 2011. She will be discussing the goals for New York Agri-Women within Western New York. Later on in the month, Christine Rolando, the Catskills and Hudson Valley District Leader, is coordinating a meet-up on August 29, 2011 at Soons Orchard, 23 Soons Circle, New Hampton, New York 10958. The cost for the event will be \$20.00 per person. The event will be held in conjunction with the local Rotary Club. Rolando notes that "the event will serve as an opportunity for New York Agri-Women to network with Rotary members while learning about the Soons family-owned and operated apple orchard."

Later on this fall, the Suffolk County Chapter will meet at 10:30am on November 1, 2011 at Schmitt Farm located at 2366 Roanoke avenue in Riverhead, New York. New York Agri-Women will tour their farm before traveling to Stonewall's Restaurant for lunch. "Schmitt Farm is a fourth-generation family farm that has been farming on Long Island for over 150 years," says Vicki Guber, the Suffolk County and Long Island/New York City District Leader. "Owners Debbie and Phil Schmitt operate a 165-acre wholesale vegetable farm producing spinach,

cabbage, beets and herbs, and a retail farm stand, Schmitt's Farm Stand on Sound. Debbie also runs Deb's Field Grown Flowers, which supplies cut flowers and bouquets to wholesale and farm stand customers." The cost to attend the event is \$35.00 and participants are encouraged to RSVP before October 21, 2011.

New York Agri-Women is a state affiliate of American Agri-Women. For more information about New York Agri-Women, please visit the website at www.newyorkagriwomen.com or contact Rincker at newyorkagriwomen@gmail.com or (212) 427-2049.

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