

Farm Bureau Applauds N.Y. Ag Budget Proposal

GLENMONT, N.Y. — The New York State Senate has announced the Empire State Farm Assistance Program, setting \$70 million aside to enhance the economic development of one of our state's most important industries — agriculture. The Senate initiative, when fully effective, will save farmers \$40 million in taxes and will provide \$30 million to agriculture for economic development assistance.

"Senate Majority Leader Bruno and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Hoffmann have demonstrated their commitment to agriculture through this budget proposal," stated John W. Lincoln, President of New York Farm Bureau. "Farms do not typically qualify for traditional economic development programs. Our farms welcome this targeted economic development assistance as it will help the industry to ensure profitability in an increasingly competitive local and global marketplace."

The Senate's agriculture proposal consists of four parts: the Agricultural Systems Initiative, Strategic Farm Planning and

Grant Program, targeted tax relief, and continued support for existing programs.

New York Farm Bureau, along with other agricultural organizations, has worked to develop the Agricultural Systems Initiative, a program designed to provide farmers with the best agricultural knowledge in the country. Funding for the program in the first year is \$7.5 million, growing to \$15 million in the program's third year. With this funding, Cornell University's Co-operative Extension will be better equipped to provide technical information about agricultural research and technology, marketing and labor issues.

The Strategic Farm Planning and Grant Program would initially provide \$6 million in the first year and grow to \$15 million in the third year, and would provide targeted assistance directly to farms for business planning. This program would team farmers with professionals representing agriculture, finance, marketing, management and environmental sciences to develop and implement effective business plans.

In addition to the Governor's proposal, which includes funding for several targeted tax cuts, such as expansion of the School Property Tax Credit program, the Senate is proposing several new tax cuts for agriculture. They include Refundable Group Health Insurance Credit — \$15 million; Refundable Investment Tax Credit — \$2 million; Christmas

Tree Farm School Property Tax Credit — \$100,000; and Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund — \$7 million.

In addition, the Senate is also proposing additional support for existing agricultural programs around the state. The Senate proposal expands the Governor's extensive Executive Budget proposal for agriculture. Included

programs are: additional funds for Agriculture in the Classroom, Apiary Research, North Country Agriculture, N.Y. Apple Association, Onion Research, Cattle Herd Health Assurance, Wine and Grape Foundation, Central N.Y. AgriTourism and Education, John's Disease Program, and a NYS Turfgrass industry survey.

Forage Harvesters Deliver High-Performance In Heavy Work Conditions

COLUMBUS, Ind. — Claas of America's Jaguar 830/850/870/890/900 Series self-propelled forage harvesters are designed to deliver high performance and optimum processing in heavy work conditions. The result is a clean chop, top quality forage, and high throughput.

Featuring a 29-inch wide chopping cylinder with 20 or 24 knives arranged in V-formation, the Jaguars provide a scissor cut for excellent quality chop.

Knife sharpening and shear bar adjustment on the new harvesters is done from the cab to the point of contact to minimize power requirements and fuel consumption. Redesigned feed rollers offer increased durability and a new length of cut gear box featuring a hydraulic reverser and six cutting lengths.

The new Jaguars also feature high power, Mercedes-Benz en-

gines. Now providing increased torque and equipped with electronic fuel injection, the engines deliver power very rapidly and lower fuel consumption and service costs.

Jaguar Models 830, 850, and 870 have inline six cylinder engines. Model 890 and 900 have a V-8. The rugged engines deliver 321 HP in the Model 830 Jaguar, 389 HP in the Model 850, 438 HP in the Model 870, 503 HP in the Model 890 Jaguar, and 605 HP in the Model 900.

Other features include a new generation cab that is designed for driver comfort and ease of use. Equipped with heat and air conditioning, the cab provides an optimal work environment while an air suspension driver's seat delivers a more comfortable ride.

Controls are near at hand. The newly designed multifunction hydrostatic control lever is

now mounted on the seat. The new C.I.S. (Claas Information System) displays all important information in an easy to view LCD screen. Large windows provide driver with an excellent view of all functions and each have their own pull down sunshade. Front and side windows have wipers and washers.

Also standard are two-gear transmission with automatic overdrive, hydrostatic ground drive, and metal detector. The discharge chute rotation has been increased to 190 degrees for added visibility and also an increased reach of 19-inches.

The Jaguars are available with a corn header equipped with Auto-Steer or hay pickup head. Optional equipment includes a heavy-duty corn cracker with quick removal feature, mechanical four-wheel drive and central lubrication system.

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