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Contact: Steve Ammerman, NYFB Manager of Public Affairs
Office: (518) 431-5643 Cell: (518) 573-3617 sammerman@nyfb.org

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU OPPOSES AGRICULTURAL CARVE-OUT IN NYS BUDGET

STATEMENT FROM NYFB PRESIDENT DEAN NORTON

“Despite the apparent budget negotiations taking place in Albany on how to mitigate the impact of a \$15 minimum wage on the state’s family farms, New York Farm Bureau remains adamantly opposed to any increase in the minimum wage, as well as any carve-out for agriculture. While the carve-out may sound beneficial at face value, farms must still compete for and attract quality employees. A carve-out would only make an already difficult task of finding farm labor even harder. Prospective employees would naturally gravitate towards higher paying jobs, and our wages would have to be comparable. In addition, farms are a significant part of the upstate and rural Long Island economy. The fact other business would still be paying a higher minimum wage would drive up the costs for goods and services that farms depend on to run their operations. In the end, a carve-out does little for agriculture and would only separate us from the larger business community in a negative way.

State and county Farm Bureau leaders have communicated this position to lawmakers in Albany in the past months and will continue to stand firm on it, as well as our position against any increase in the minimum wage. A mandated wage hike will only raise costs and make it more difficult for New York farmers to compete," said Dean Norton, New York Farm Bureau President

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New York Farm Bureau is the State’s largest agricultural lobbying/trade organization. Its members and the public know the organization as "The Voice of New York Agriculture." New York Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving the economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural community.