



For Immediate Release:
May 10, 2016

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

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU STATEMENT ON NYCLU COLLECTIVE BARGAINING LAWSUIT

New York Farm Bureau is unable to comment on specifics of the NYCLU lawsuit until we have had a chance to review the case. However, public allegations being made in the organization's announcement greatly misrepresent dairy farms, and working conditions of all farm employees, in New York. In addition, the allegations contradict and ignore the valued relationships that farmers across the state have with their employees.

The farm industry has long been pushing for comprehensive immigration reform that will have many positive benefits for the employees and the industry as a whole. However, the right to organize is a labor union tactic that may work in a factory setting, but not on a farm where the planting and harvesting of crops and the milking of cows are extremely time sensitive and weather-dependent. For a farm to lose employees to an untimely walk-off of the job could jeopardize a season's crop and place livestock health at risk.

-30-

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.