



New York Farm Bureau

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2407 (Senator Bailey) / Assembly Bill 338 (Assemblymember Cruz)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW, IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING THE FARM OWNERSHIP SUCCESSION PLANNING PROGRAM (FOSPP)

Date: 4/7/2025

The New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm advocacy organization, requests your support for this important legislation. If enacted, this bill would require the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) Commissioner to work with the Department of Economic Development (ESD) and the Department of Financial Services to establish a farm ownership succession planning program by August of 2026. The program would provide farm owners with a toolkit which would include resources on agricultural programs, economic development programs, along with additional information for those closing or selling their farms.

Additionally, the new program would develop a information resource location to link and educate farmers who are planning on selling their farm/farmland as well as for prospective new farmers to learn of business opportunities, including purchasing opportunities. The average age of a farmer in New York is 57 years old, making them close to retirement age. It is important for farmers to have succession plans for their farms and keep the land in production. This bill would provide many needed resources and opportunities for farmers to aid in the process of succession planning. Good succession planning will help ensure that farmland remains in production, and we are able to continue to produce good, healthy food for all New Yorkers.

The New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.