

1. What do you think is the largest issue facing farmers in this district? What solutions would you seek?
  - a. In NY-22 the new 40-hour work week requirements before overtime pay is required is devastating. We have a labor shortage in agriculture in NYS (and elsewhere in the US). The new pay requirements will drive costs even higher for farmers causing them to reduce hours for workers... which in turn will push experienced workers to move to other states that provide better opportunities for their skills. Farming is already under tremendous regulatory pressure in NYS, fuel and electricity costs are high, and taxes are already high. These make farming even more difficult in NY-22.
  
2. One of the biggest challenges for New York agriculture is having access to reliable, skilled labor when domestic workers cannot meet this need. Delays in the H-2A program have frustrated farmers and led to loss of crops and unknown legal status of current workers are all concerns that farmers have when it comes to a dependable workforce. How do you see Congress moving forward to address agricultural immigration in a bipartisan manner?
  - a. Guest worker programs have been successful and should be expanded. Allowing skilled seasonal workers to fill jobs and return to their families outside the US is a win-win.
  
3. Despite growing and raising diverse agricultural products in New York, farmers still face challenges in getting food from the rural areas of our farms to the suburban and urban locations of so many consumers. What would you do to help bridge this divide? What efforts would you take to ensure farmers are able to have reliable markets for their goods?
  - a. The CSA, farm-to-table, buy-local, and farmer markets movements have helped create markets for small farms. We have benefited from this in our own farm activities as a family. One of the biggest barriers again is excess regulation in NYS that add complexity and costs to farmers bringing their products to market. Many of these are state issues.
  
4. Farmers are known as stewards of the land, and agriculture plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through conservation practices and renewable energy. As Congress works to address climate change, how will you ensure that agriculture is part of the conversation?
  - a. having reliable, resilient, affordable, and responsible energy is critical to our economy. As a nuclear engineer, I will work towards common sense solutions to our energy needs that lower costs for the middle-class, businesses, and farmers. I oppose the Green New Deal's approach to climate change, and am working on alternatives to address the rising CO2 levels of our planet. I am working with scientists on a program for natural CO2 sequestration solutions that would positively impact farmers and create new opportunities for farmers to be part of the solution instead of blamed for the problem of climate change.