



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Finger Lakes Cheese Festival on Saturday, July 25, a great chance to support local agriculture, tourism ~ O'Mara reflects on family's history in cheese making in New York State

THOMAS F. O'MARA July 23, 2015

| ISSUE: **AGRICULTURE**



**Odessa, N.Y., July 23**—State Senator Tom O'Mara (R-C, Big Flats), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, today reminded area residents that the 4th Annual Finger Lakes Cheese Festival takes place this Saturday, July 25, at [Sunset View Creamery](#) in Schuyler County.

"The Finger Lakes Cheese Festival offers a great opportunity to sample many locally made cheeses and help bring attention to an important sector of New York State's agricultural industry," said O'Mara, who also serves as one of the 10 state legislators on the joint,

bipartisan Rural Resources Commission. “Cheese making has long played an important role in so many upstate New York communities, including in Schuyler County and across the Finger Lakes region. The great news is that it’s still going strong and has an exciting and promising future.”

O’Mara also took the occasion of this year’s festival to recall his own family’s history in New York State cheese making. O’Mara’s grandfather, John, was a cheese maker and operated the [Colosse Cheese Factory in Oswego County](#) in the mid-20th century. Colosse Cheese won several awards at the New York State Fair over the years, including 1st Place medals for cheese making in 1937 and 1941 when O’Mara’s grandfather operated the factory. The senator’s father, also named John, grew up working in the factory throughout his high school and college years. Colosse Cheese is still produced and sold in central New York, but the O’Mara family is no longer involved in the business

[In the photo above, from left to right, during a visit to Sunset View Creamery in 2012: Senator O’Mara, Ron Hoffman, owner and operator of Hoffarms Dairy, and the senator's father, John, show the New York State Fair medals for Colosse Cheese from the mid-20th century.]

Sunset View Creamery is a Farmstead & Artisan Cheese Production Facility that’s operated on Hoffarms Dairy, a century-old farm located in Odessa, New York, just south of Watkins Glen. Fourth and fifth generation Hoffmans operate the farm and all the milk used in their cheese making comes from their predominantly Holstein herd.

For more information on other local cheese makers, including the schedule for this Saturday’s Finger Lakes Cheese Festival and other upcoming events, visit the Finger Lakes Cheese Trail online at <http://flcheesetrail.com/>.