



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Bonacic

## SENATOR BONACIC ANNOUNCES \$25 MILLION SOUTHERN TIER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

JOHN J. BONACIC December 21, 2015

(**Middletown, NY**)-Senator John J. Bonacic (R/C/I-Mt. Hope) is pleased to announce that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has released criteria for the \$25 million Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. Farms and Agribusinesses in Delaware County are eligible to apply. The program aims to provide crucial funding for these operations. Applications will be available beginning January 19, 2016.

“We’ve seen historic floods and storms these past several years in New York, but the agriculture industry has remained resilient,” said Senator Bonacic. “I would encourage farmers in Delaware County to take advantage of this program, as it has the potential to make a significant impact on the success of local farms and agribusinesses.”

The eligibility requirements for the program are available online at [www.agriculture.ny.gov](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov). Eligible projects will increase agricultural production on farms and improve profitability, as well as support farmers in better managing, and enhancing environmental resources.

Projects may receive up to \$100,000 to help expenses associated with construction, renovation, irrigation, drainage, environmental enhancements, fencing, trellis systems, and greenhouses.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets will work in coordination with County Soil, and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to administer the program. The SWCD's will pre-qualify projects and oversee the implementation of the awards.

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