



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Learning to Love Farming: Ritchie Measure Would Encourage More People to Become Agriculture Educators

PATTY RITCHIE June 16, 2016



As lawmakers in Albany work to wrap up the legislative session, Senator Ritchie is continuing to fight for farmers by passing measures that support the agriculture industry, including a bill to encourage more people to pursue careers as agriculture educators.

Senator Ritchie's measure (S.1920-A), which passed the Senate Wednesday, would attract more individuals to teach young people about the importance of farming by providing student loan forgiveness to those who commit to agriculture education careers.

“There are so many talented individuals across our state who are passionate about farming and have the potential to share all they know about the industry with young people who will one day become part of New York’s next generation of farmers,” said Senator Ritchie, who serves as Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

“The continued success of our state’s leading industry depends on encouraging more young people to one day become involved in agribusiness, and this legislation continues my efforts to do just that.”

In addition, the Senate also this week passed three other measures aimed at boosting agriculture and supporting new and beginning farmers. They include:

- A measure (S.7180-A) to allow vehicles registered for agricultural purposes to travel on public highways from their point of sale to a farm. Currently, they are only allowed to travel on public highways to certain destinations that are less than 25 miles away, creating a burden for farmers who are unnecessarily forced pay for a trailer to transport their farm vehicle;
- Legislation (S.1793) to establish a revolving loan fund program for beginning farmers, which would help support those who are just starting out, as well as attract new people to the profession; and
- Senate bill 2531-B, which would establish a program aimed at helping farmers—especially vegetable growers—manage costs associated with removing excess water from land that hampers cultivation.

The measures were sent to the Assembly.