



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patrick M. Gallivan

## Bill to Protect NY Farmland Becomes Law

JIM RANNEY August 2, 2018

| ISSUE: **AGRICULTURE, FARMLAND PROTECTION**



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (R-C-I, Elma) announces a Senate bill improving the existing Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program has been signed into law. The measure (S.8362A), co-sponsored by Senator Gallivan, strengthens the grant program to better protect farmland, improves the chances of farmer-to-farmer property transactions, and keeps active farmland in use.

“This new law will further support agriculture as New York’s number one industry,” Senator Gallivan said. “By promoting the sale of farmland from one farmer to another, we help

ensure the continued production of fresh food and other agricultural products, and the growth of new family farms throughout New York.”

New York farmers who are age 65 and older own or manage nearly a third of the more than seven million acres of farmland in the state, and many of them do not have an identified successor to take over the farm. As these farmers retire, roughly two million acres of farmland in New York are, or will soon be, transitioning to new ownership. Without new protections in place to promote sales of farmland to another working farmer, ownership of protected farmland is not guaranteed to pass to another farmer.

While traditional conservation easements restrict development rights, this law would further restrict the value of the farm to its agricultural use value - an appraised value that reflects what a working farm is worth - making it even more affordable for working farmers to buy. By making farmer-purchaser agreements eligible for state assistance payments in the Farmland Protection Implementation Program, retiring farmers who wish to preserve their farms may be willing to negotiate easements and more farms will remain in the hands of working farmers.

This law takes effect in 90 days.

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## 2017-S8362A

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Establishes agricultural and farmland protection programs

May 03, 2018

Senate Floor Calendar

Sponsored by **Patty Ritchie**

Do you support this bill?

