NEW YORK CORN & SOYBEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

MAGAZINE

FALL 2026



Photo by Katie Becker

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA) is a grassroots organization representing corn and soybean producers' interests.

The association works to develop and expand markets, educate members and consumers, and enhance public policy for corn and soybean growers in the Empire State. We also sponsor research on corn and soybean production, utilization, and marketing and host educational programs on management, production, and marketing. The association is a Qualified State Soybean Board (QSSB) and administers New York's soybean checkoff.

NYCSGA has served as the QSSB for New York farmers as part of the national soy checkoff program since 2010. The farmer-driven board oversees and manages New York's share of funds received from the checkoff program.

Through the checkoff, each soybean farmer contributes one-half of one percent of the price of each bushel at the first point of sale. The NYCSGA Soybean Checkoff keeps one-half of the checkoff funds collected to conduct state-specific soy research and promotion activities on farmers' behalf.

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Sydney Kaizer
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E-mail: sydney@amplifymyassociation.com

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Brad Macauley,
President, New York Corn &
Soybean Growers Association

Letter From the President

As I write this, the 2026 Summer Crop Summit has concluded, and it was one of the largest attendances in recent history. The team brought together a phenomenal lineup of speakers, demonstrations, equipment, and food. Many topics were broached, from the future of our markets to the future ownership of our farms. While not all outlooks are rosy and not all conversations are easy, there is always a bright future in agriculture because of the people who choose to have these conversations. Thank you to everyone who participated in the event and to all who choose agriculture as their career everyday.

At home, we are gearing up for our fall harvest, ensuring that combines and choppers are ready for their fall duties. At the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA), it is much the same. We are ensuring that state legislators and agencies understand the intricacies of planning a crop and how the neonic waiver process needs to fit into that planning process to be effective. We are engaging with federal representatives on the importance of the farm bill as well as biofuels. While those items top the current list of priorities, there is an extensive list of issues the NYCSGA team tracks and engages on.

Watch your email and text messages for updates as well as opportunities to e-lobby. Much like our tight weather windows for harvest, our fall legislative season will be narrow with midterm elections. Please feel confident that while you may not be able to be in Albany or Washington D.C., a strong team is representing you.

Wishing you a safe and successful harvest season. ■



Thank you,
Marc Krieger
for many years of service
as a NYCSGA director!

NEW YORK CORN & SOYBEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION



NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING NEW YORK FARMER

If you know an individual who does a great job representing New York corn and soybean farmers, nominate them for one of the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association Leadership Awards!

2027

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Rep. Randy Feenstra is the U.S. Congressman representing Iowa's 4th district.

EARS IN WASHINGTON

Fighting for Our Corn Growers

By Rep. Randy Feenstra, Guest Columnist

Since our country's founding, corn farmers have fed our families, fueled our economies, and strengthened our nation's security. Representing the largest corn-producing district in the nation is more than just an honor—it's a responsibility to ensure our commodity is in the best position possible to feed and fuel the world. That's why I was deeply humbled this summer to receive the National Corn Growers Association's President's Award, one of the organization's highest honors, in recognition of our hard work on behalf of corn growers nationwide.

This award belongs to the farmers as much as it does to me. Corn growers have never wavered in their commitment to delivering commonsense policies that expand markets, strengthen rural economies, and provide certainty for our producers. Their strong advocacy helped make one of the biggest victories this Congress possible: House passage of year-round, nationwide E15.

After more than a decade of Washington gridlock and temporary waivers, the House has finally taken action to permanently authorize year-round E15 sales nationwide. When I was appointed as co-chair of the Rural Domestic Energy Council, it was essential to work alongside farmers, ethanol producers, refiners, fuel retailers, and my colleagues in Congress to build the broad and strong coalition necessary to get this legislation across the finish line in the House. It's simple: year-round E15 is a victory for all Americans. It creates a stable and strong market for our corn growers, lowers fuel costs for working families, and accelerates American energy independence instead of relying on foreign energy sources.

While this victory is significant, it is only the start. I am committed to working alongside my Senate colleagues to get this bill passed and sent to President Trump's desk, so that farmers and rural communities can finally receive the relief they have asked for years to achieve.

Our farmers continue to face rising input costs, tight commodity prices, and increasing uncertainty. Farmers and producers are the backbone of our country—they deserve opportunity instead of obstacles. Whether it's expanding demand for corn through year-round E15, strengthening the farm safety net or opening new markets for American agriculture, I remain committed to ensuring our producers have the tools they need to succeed.

I will fight every single day to be a strong voice for Iowa's hardworking farmers. America's corn growers deserve nothing less, and I look forward to continuing to work together to build a strong and promising future for Iowa agriculture and rural America. ■



Photo by Katie Becker

High-Oleic Hits Home

A New York Dairy Is Already Seeing the Opportunity

Half Full Dairy near Warners, New York, began feeding high-oleic soybeans in 2020, when supply-chain challenges and high palm-fat prices pushed the farm to look for another source of dietary fat and protein. In a 2026 U.S. Soy feature, owner AJ Wormuth reported that the initial ration change saved the dairy $0.37 per cow per day. The farm's experience offers a New York example of how high-oleic soybeans can compete as both a nutritional ingredient and a feed-cost strategy.

The science behind the opportunity is the soybean's fatty-acid profile. Conventional soybeans contain about 22–28% oleic acid, while today's high-oleic varieties typically contain roughly 68–80%. With less polyunsaturated fat entering the ration, high-oleic soybeans present less risk of milk-fat depression than conventional beans at higher inclusion rates. Heat treatment adds another advantage by increasing rumen-undegradable protein, delivering both fat and bypass protein in one ingredient.

Cornell researchers and Extension educators have been actively evaluating the fit for New York dairies. Cornell Cooperative Extension notes that roasted, ground high-oleic soybeans are commonly fed at about 3–8 pounds per



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cow per day, depending on the ration, and that homegrown beans can help reduce purchases of soybean meal, bypass protein, and supplemental fat when production, processing, and storage economics make sense. Cornell's Dr. Tom Overton also emphasizes that the opportunity is not simply "more milk fat"—for some dairies, the value may be maintaining performance while lowering ration cost.

Why It Matters Here

New York has both sides of the market: 650,000 milk cows as of January 1, 2026, and a 2026 soybean crop forecast at 325,000 planted acres and 15.75 million bushels. High-oleic soybeans offer an opportunity to connect New York soybean growers with one of the state's most important livestock sectors—creating additional domestic demand while giving dairy nutritionists another tool to manage feed cost and milk components.

$0.37

per cow per day

Half Full Dairy's initial reported savings

Could High-Oleic Fit Your Farm?

Dairy producers should work with their nutritionist to evaluate ration economics, sourcing, roasting, testing, and feeding rates. Soybean growers can talk with buyers, dairies, and seed representatives about high-oleic production and contracting opportunities. ■

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Women & Mentors Program & ACE Summit

New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA) Secretary Emmaline Long and Executive Director Colleen Klein joined corn leaders from across the country in Washington, D.C., for the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) Women & Mentors Program and the coinciding International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE Summit, where they strengthened leadership skills, built industry connections, and brought New York agriculture's perspective to national conversations.

ASAAP Meeting in New York

NYCSGA welcomed American Soybean Association (ASA) state association leaders to New York for the ASA Action Partnership (ASAAP) summer meeting, showcasing New York agriculture, sharing ideas among state soybean organizations, and highlighting the diversity and innovation of farming in the Genesee Valley.

Congresswoman Claudia Tenney Visits Western New York Energy

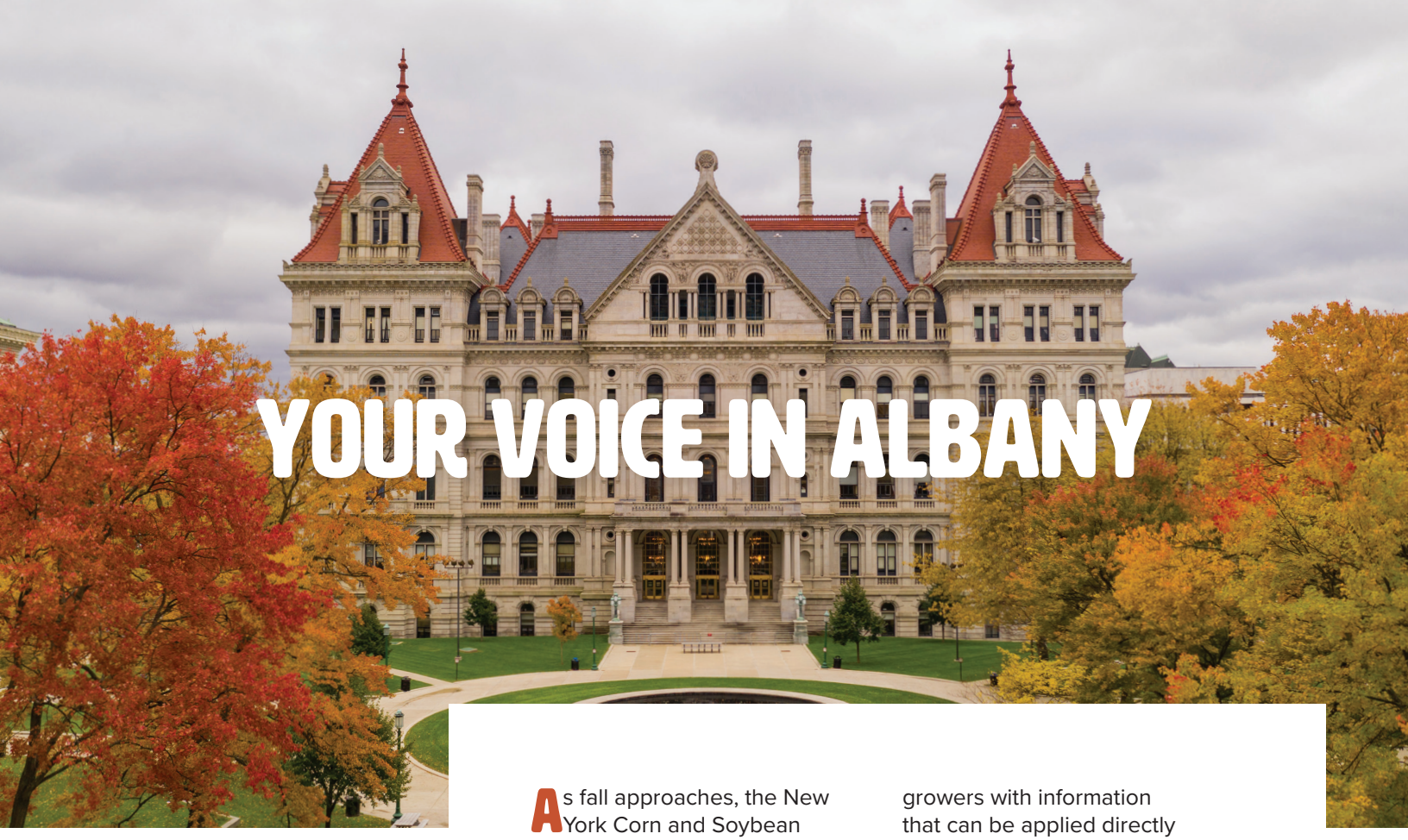
Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (NY-24) visited Western New York Energy to learn more about New York's ethanol industry, the value of locally grown corn, and the role biofuels play in supporting farmers, rural economies, and American energy independence.

NCGA/ASA D.C. Fly-In

NYCSGA President Brad Macauley, Director Joe Van Lieshout, and Executive Director Colleen Klein took the priorities of New York corn and soybean growers directly to Capitol Hill during the July NCGA/ASA D.C. Fly-In, meeting with members of New York's congressional delegation to discuss farm policy, biofuels, market access, and the issues affecting growers at home.

Clean Fuels Alliance America Membership Meeting

NYCSGA participated in the Clean Fuels Alliance America Membership Meeting, connecting with partners from across the biofuels industry and advancing conversations around soybean oil, biodiesel, renewable fuels, and growing domestic demand for U.S. Soy.



YOUR VOICE IN ALBANY



Casey Marvell,
Vice President,
Ostroff Associates

As fall approaches, the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA) continues to remain active in Albany. This year brought significant developments, including major changes to the state's climate law implementation. At the same time, New York is entering a busy election season that will bring changes to both the political landscape and legislative leadership in Albany. Ostroff Associates continues to work closely with NYCSGA leadership and members to ensure that growers voices are heard by state policymakers.

The final FY 2026-27 state budget provided several important victories for NYCSGA members, including continuing to secure full funding for the Corn Research and Education Grant Program. NYCSGA secured the full $125,000 appropriation for the program. Since its creation, this funding has supported valuable research designed to provide growers with information that can be applied directly on farms. Research into soil health, crop productivity, and sustainability allows growers to make decisions based on New York-specific data and conditions. We once again thank Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Donna Lupardo for their leadership on providing this funding.

Another significant development in this year's budget was the agreement to modify portions of New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). NYCSGA has consistently supported practical approaches to reducing emissions that recognize the role agriculture and biofuels can play in the state's energy future. The changes enacted this year modify how New York accounts for greenhouse gas emissions and provide the state with additional flexibility as it works toward its long-term climate goals. We believe these changes can help create

a more technology-neutral approach that provides greater opportunities for biofuels and other lower-carbon fuels produced from agricultural feedstocks.

Just as importantly, the changes come as the state increasingly recognizes the importance of affordability. Earlier this year, significant concerns were raised about the potential costs associated with implementing an overly aggressive cap-and-invest program. For growers who depend heavily on fuel and energy, substantial increases in energy prices would ultimately increase the cost of business. NYCSGA was glad to see changes made to the CLCPA and will continue to advocate for a climate and energy strategy that reduces emissions without placing unreasonable costs on farmers.

Another key issue NYCSGA is working on relates to the implementation of the Birds and Bees Protection Act. On August 27, the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Bureau of Pesticides Management will hold a virtual stakeholder meeting to begin gathering input on changes to existing pesticide regulations and new regulations required for implementation of the Birds and Bees Protection Act. This is a first step in a regulatory process that NYCSGA expects to be actively engaged in.

For years, NYCSGA worked extensively on the neonicotinoid legislation. While the association had significant concerns with the original legislation, our advocacy helped secure substantial changes intended to make the final law more workable for New York growers. Those changes included additional time before implementation and, importantly, a waiver process designed to preserve access to treated seed when conditions demonstrate that it is necessary.

As DEC develops regulations, NYCSGA will advocate for a process that is straightforward, science-based, and not overly burdensome for growers. The waiver provisions included in the law must function as intended, providing growers with a realistic pathway to access treated seeds when pest pressures or other conditions demonstrate a legitimate need.

New York growers have already demonstrated their willingness to be constructive partners. NYCSGA members have offered farmland to assist Cornell researchers with field testing and evaluation of non-neonicotinoid-treated seeds. That type of real-world research will be critical to understanding how alternative practices perform under New York growing conditions. NYCSGA intends to be one of the leading agricultural voices throughout this regulatory process. The association will directly engage with both DEC and the Department of Agriculture and Markets and will continue working with growers and other stakeholders to ensure the final regulations are workable for New York growers.

Finally, 2026 is an important election year, and this November could significantly reshape New York's political landscape. Governor Kathy Hochul is seeking reelection against Republican Bruce Blakeman, county executive of Nassau County. The most recent Siena University poll has Governor Hochul leading Blakeman 52% to 32% statewide, although the race is presenting different patterns depending on the area of the state. The same poll showed the candidates essentially tied among upstate voters, 42% to 41%.

Beyond the governor's race, the attorney general, comptroller, New York's congressional delegation, and all 213 seats in the state Senate and Assembly are on the ballot. Retirements, primary results, and potential general election turnover are expected to bring a substantial number of new legislators to Albany in 2027. There will also be important leadership changes. Assemblymember Lupardo's retirement will mean a new chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee, while Assemblymember Deborah Glick's retirement will bring new leadership to the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee. For NYCSGA, these changes represent both a challenge and an opportunity. Building relationships with new legislators and educating them about the importance of agriculture will be an important priority heading into 2027.

Regardless of which candidates ultimately prevail in November, NYCSGA's approach will remain the same. Agriculture is not a partisan issue, and NYCSGA has developed strong relationships with policymakers on both sides of the aisle. Ostroff Associates and NYCSGA will continue working with Republicans and Democrats alike to make certain New York's corn and soybean growers have a strong voice in Albany. ■

Innovation Meets Opportunity

at the 2026 Summer Crop Summit

Growers, industry partners, and agricultural leaders gathered in Seneca Falls for a day focused on markets, technology, farm resilience, and the future of New York agriculture









On August 12, New York's corn and soybean community gathered at Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls for the 2026 New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA) Summer Crop Summit, a day designed around practical information, new ideas, and the connections that help move agriculture forward.

The summit served as the opening day of the New York Ag Showcase, a two-day event series pairing NYCSGA's grower-focused program with the New York Soil Health (NYSH) Field Day on August 13. Together, the events brought farmers, researchers, agricultural businesses, and industry partners to the farm for education, field demonstrations, and conversation about both the immediate challenges and long-term opportunities facing New York agriculture.

Agriculture, Business, and the Bigger Picture

Keynote speaker Damian Mason brought his familiar combination of agricultural economics, business perspective, and humor to the event. Raised on a dairy farm and holding a degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University, Mason has built a national following by examining agriculture not only as a way of life, but as a complex and rapidly changing business.

His perspective was a fitting start to a program intentionally built around the realities of modern farming: controlling costs, identifying opportunity, adapting to technology, managing risk, and making decisions in an industry where change rarely waits for a convenient time.

From there, the conversation moved to one of the most

promising market-development stories for soybeans in New York: high-oleic soybeans.

The session, “The High-Oleic Soybean Opportunity in New York,” explored an opportunity that is becoming increasingly relevant to growers in the Northeast. High-oleic soybeans were initially developed largely for their oil, which offers improved stability for food applications, but dairy feed has quickly emerged as another significant source of demand.

A panel moderated by Drew Margolin, associate professor in the Department of Communication at Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), consisted of Joe Van Lieshout with Brabant Farms, Todd Du Mond with Du Mond Ag, and Pable Descoe with Progressive Dairy Solutions. Together, they explored their collective experiences around the development of the high-oleic market in New York.

For an association focused on expanding markets for its members, the conversation demonstrated what market development can look like in practice: creating additional value for a crop by connecting it to the needs of another major New York agricultural sector.

From the Main Stage to the Field

After lunch and time with exhibitors, attendees were able to move between short-form main-stage presentations and live equipment demonstrations—a format that allowed the afternoon to cover everything from family farm succession to precision technology.

O’Hara Machinery demonstrated a John Deere Gator equipped with field-boundary mapping technology, showing how quickly accurate field information can be collected and used for planning and input management.

Java Farm Supply brought both a Precision Planting Symphony sprayer system and a Fendt RoGator 934H, giving growers an up-close look at application technology, system operation, and equipment capabilities.

RangeLine Group rounded out the demonstrations with Amazone equipment, including a fertilizer spreader and Ceus one-pass tillage tool.









The demonstrations reflected an important reality of modern agriculture: technology only creates value when farmers can see how it fits into their own operation. Providing opportunities to see equipment working, talk directly with suppliers and ask practical questions remains an important part of the Summer Crop Summit experience.

Building Farms That Last

Technology may help growers farm more efficiently today, but another afternoon discussion focused on whether the farm itself will be prepared for tomorrow.

Mark Modzeleski, president and founder of Legacy Wealth Advisors of NY, continued NYCSGA's Farm Transition & Estate Planning Series with a main-stage presentation addressing one of agriculture's most difficult subjects: transferring a farm successfully from one generation to the next.

Throughout the series, Modzeleski has emphasized that succession is about more than wills, trusts, tax strategy, or transferring assets. Successful farm transition also requires families to think deliberately about leadership, communication, responsibility, and decision-making—and to begin developing the next generation before circumstances force the transition. Articles regarding the estate plan series can be found on the NYCSGA website, nycornsoy.org.



Mark Modzeleski,
President/Financial Advisor/
Financial Planner, Legacy Wealth
Advisors of NY

That focus is especially relevant for multi-generational farm businesses, where preserving the operation often depends as much on preparing people as it does on preparing paperwork.











Katie Basu,
LCSW-R Senior Director,
Farmers Supporting Farmers

Supporting the People Behind the Farm

The summit also made space for a subject that is increasingly recognized as an important part of farm resilience: the well-being of the people running the operation.

Katie Basu introduced attendees to Farmers Supporting Farmers, a peer-driven program providing mental wellness and business support to farmers, agribusiness workers, and their families.

The statewide program offers free and confidential support, including peer-based mental wellness services as well as assistance related to financial wellness, business planning, and decision-making. The program was created in recognition of the unique economic and emotional pressures that can accompany farming and rural life.

Including that conversation alongside equipment, markets, and business planning reinforced a simple but important message: a resilient farm requires resilient people.

From Soybean Fields to Firefighting

One of the afternoon's most unexpected examples of agricultural innovation came from Charles Stiver and Karen Edwards, who spotlighted SoyFoam™, a soy-based firefighting foam developed with support from soybean checkoff investments.

SoyFoam demonstrates just how far the search for new uses can extend beyond traditional food, feed, and fuel markets. The product uses soy flour and was developed as an alternative to firefighting foams containing PFAS. According to the United Soybean Board, SoyFoam contains no intentionally added PFAS or fluorine, is readily biodegradable, and is certified 84% biobased through the USDA BioPreferred Program. Because the product uses the meal component of the soybean, it also represents a potential new demand stream at a time when increased soybean crushing for renewable fuels is producing additional soybean meal.

For growers, it was a tangible example of what soybean checkoff-funded research and market development can ultimately mean: finding new customers and new uses for what farmers already produce.

Connection Is Part of the Program

Education was only part of the purpose of the Summer Crop Summit. Exhibitor time, lunch, and the afternoon Grower Gathering Social gave attendees opportunities to talk with other farmers, compare experiences, meet industry representatives, and continue conversations that began during the formal program.

NYCSGA extends its appreciation to Rodman Lott & Son Farms for hosting the event and to its many sponsors whose support made the program possible.

The 2026 Summer Crop Summit showcased agriculture in all of its dimensions: technology and people, tradition and innovation, challenges and opportunities. More importantly, it created a place for New York growers to learn from one another and consider what comes next.

Because whether the opportunity is found in a new soybean market, a precision tool, a better transition plan, or a stronger connection with another farmer, moving New York agriculture forward starts with bringing the right people and the right ideas together. ■



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MANAGING TOUGH WEEDS WITH RESISTANCE TO MULTIPLE HERBICIDES

By Laura Temple



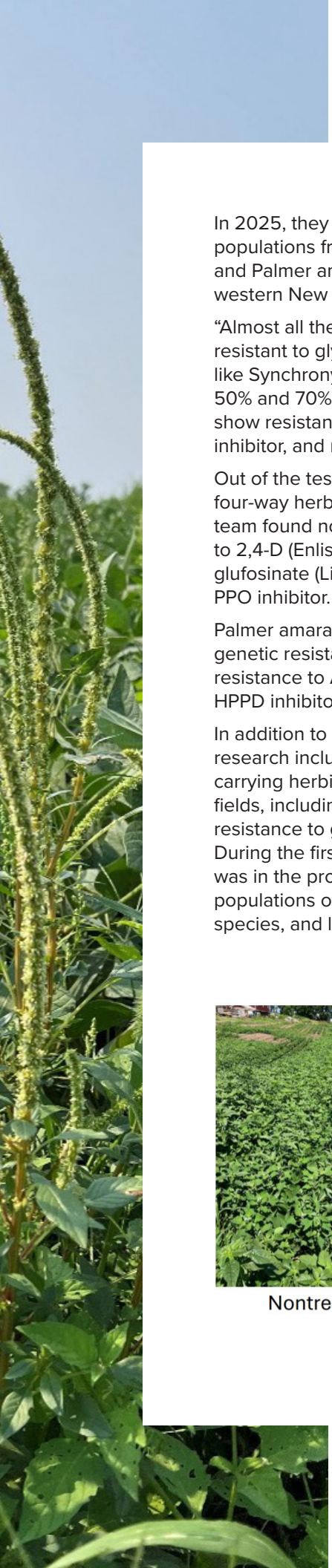
Like an experienced party crasher, Palmer amaranth has been showing up uninvited in fields beyond its original geography for years. In 2019, it arrived in New York, already carrying resistance to multiple soybean herbicides. Its cousin, waterhemp, had already invaded in 2014, also boasting multiple herbicide resistance. These weeds are forcing soybean farmers to adapt their management programs.

Vipan Kumar, associate professor of weed science at Cornell University, explains that invasive weeds like waterhemp and Palmer amaranth have been spreading throughout the state. With funding from the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA) and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), he is leading research to help farmers understand the scope of weed resistance problems.

“We are screening invasive and other weed species for herbicide resistance,” said Kumar. “Then, we are looking for successful control options in New York field crops.”

Resistance to Multiple Herbicides Is Common

At harvest, Kumar and his team collect mature seeds from weeds that survived the season in field crops, including soybeans. They grow those seeds into 3- to 4-inch weed seedlings in the greenhouse and test the effectiveness of foliar-applied herbicides commonly used in soybean and corn production.



In 2025, they collected waterhemp populations from 25 counties across the state and Palmer amaranth from two counties in western New York.

"Almost all the waterhemp we found is resistant to glyphosate and ALS inhibitors like Synchrony," Kumar reported. "Between 50% and 70% of the tested populations also show resistance to atrazine, a photosystem II inhibitor, and mesotrione, an HPPD inhibitor."

Out of the tested populations, nine carried four-way herbicide resistance. However, the team found no waterhemp carrying resistance to 2,4-D (Enlist One), dicamba (Clarity), glufosinate (Liberty), or lactofen (Cobra), a PPO inhibitor.

Palmer amaranth carried high levels of genetic resistance to glyphosate, as well as resistance to ALS inhibitors, atrazine and HPPD inhibitors.

In addition to pigweed species, Kumar's research includes other weeds that are carrying herbicide resistance in New York fields, including horseweed, which shows resistance to glyphosate and ALS inhibitors. During the first part of 2026, the team was in the process of screening collected populations of common ragweed, foxtail species, and lambsquarters.

"Glyphosate-resistant Italian ryegrass is also becoming a problem in western and northern New York," Kumar added. "Collected populations survived applications as high as 16 times the labeled rate of glyphosate."

Successful Management of Problem Weeds Is Possible

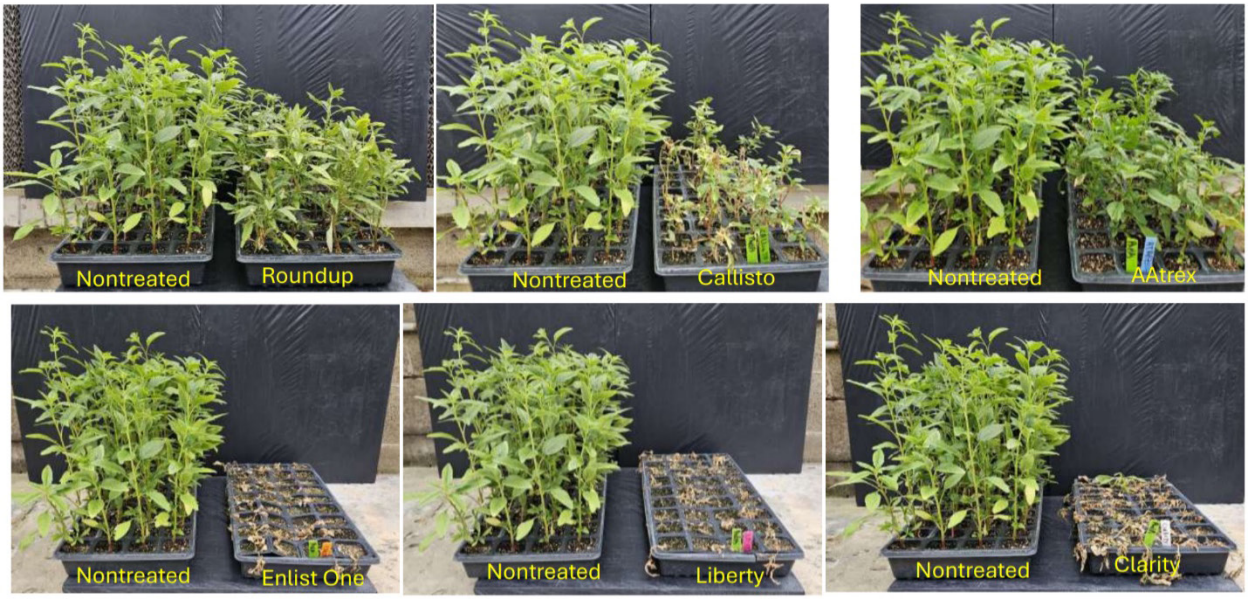
Once farmers understand the challenges of weed resistance likely in their fields, they can adjust programs to control those weed populations. Kumar tested a variety of alternate burndown, pre- and post-emergence herbicide options to identify effective options for soybean producers.

Trials included pre-emergence premixes with multiple herbicide modes of action, including two herbicides not yet registered for use in New York. These options combined two or more active ingredients using two or three of these modes of action.

The ALS inhibitors of Group 2, like chlorimuron (Classic) in combination with other active ingredients, can be effective as part of soil-applied herbicides, though many problem weeds have developed resistance to post-emergence applications of these active ingredients.



Pre-emergence herbicides provide essential early season control of glyphosate-resistant waterhemp in New York soybeans. This image shows plots 20 days after early post-emergence treatments. Photos by Vipan Kumar



This population of New York waterhemp, like many others, exhibits resistance to glyphosate, HPPD inhibitors, and photosystem II inhibitors. Photos by Vipan Kumar

Photosystem II inhibitors, Group 5, include metribuzin, one of the ingredients in pre-emergence herbicides like Boundary, Panther Pro, Tendovo, Tricor, and others.

PPO inhibitors from Group 14 include active ingredients like fomesafen (Flexstar and others), lactofen, flumioxazin (Valor and others), and sulfentrazone (Spartan).

Group 15 herbicides, or very long-chain fatty acid synthesis inhibitors, fight weeds with ingredients like acetochlor (Warrant and others) and pyroxasulfone (Zidua).

Kumar encourages farmers to apply soil residual herbicides prior to soybean emergence, a practice not yet common in New York. The premixes he tested controlled glyphosate-resistant waterhemp well in June, though their residual activity faded by mid-July. He followed these treatments with a tankmix of 2,4-D and glufosinate, which successfully extended control through the growing season.

“We have good pre-emergence programs growers can use with an early-post application of Enlist or Liberty,” he said. “We’ve even looked at Spartan and Zidua, herbicides not yet labeled in New York. Should these new products get labeled here, we know how they work.”

In addition, his greenhouse trials have found that 2,4-D, dicamba, and paraquat (Gramoxone) all provide post-emergence control of Palmer amaranth populations found in New York. In the field, Kumar has found that burndown applications of glufosinate and paraquat effectively control glyphosate-resistant horseweed, as well as glyphosate-resistant Italian ryegrass.

“We are also studying the interaction of cover crops and residual herbicides for integrated approaches to waterhemp and horseweed suppression,” Kumar added.

These trials, in cooperating farmers’ fields, compare termination timing for cereal rye cover crops and application timing for residual herbicides prior to planting, at planting, or after planting.

“This research brings integrated weed management tools together to find the best combinations to manage tough weeds,” Kumar said.

He is currently exploring other novel weed control tactics, including harvest weed seed control with seed impact mills and chaff lining, electrocution, and inter-row mowing. This research is part of a multi-tactic approach to managing the seedbanks of invasive herbicide-resistant weed species in New York soybean fields. ■

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Stronger Together

What the ACE Summit reminded me about women in agriculture

By Emmaline Long, Secretary,
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association



This year carries special weight for women in agriculture. The United Nations declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF), a global observance that spotlights the essential roles women play across agrifood systems, from production to trade, while often going unrecognized. It's a designation that feels both overdue and deeply needed, and it set the stage for one of the most meaningful professional experiences I've had in recent years.

In June, New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association (NYCSGA) Executive Director Colleen Klein and I were accepted into the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) Women & Mentors Program. As part of that experience, we traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE (Advocate, Cultivate, Empower) Summit, a national gathering hosted by the American Farm Bureau Federation and a coalition of U.S. agrifood system stakeholders. In recognition of IYWF, this year's summit was larger and more expansive than in years past, drawing approximately 400 women from across the country for three days of skill-building, advocacy programming, and networking.

I can't think of a more powerful space to be in than a room filled with 400 women farmers, ranchers, agronomists, agribusiness professionals, extension educators, and industry leaders. Many of these women were beginning farmers just getting their footing on a few acres, while others were women stewarding multi-generational operations that have weathered decades of market shifts and policy changes who have so much wisdom to share. Together, we

shared stories about leading our respective ag businesses, learned about the role of women in agriculture across the world, and ended with a reception on Capitol Hill.

Meeting so many women in diverse areas of their agricultural journeys was a reflection of what we see right here in New York. Women are not peripheral to farming in this state, but are central to it. We are blessed to have incredible women making production decisions, managing finances, navigating regulatory environments, raising the next generation of farmers, and in many cases doing all of it simultaneously and without much fanfare. They are the backbone of farm families and farm businesses across every commodity and every region of the state.

A sentiment that came up again and again throughout the summit captured this well:

"Somewhere along the way, women in agriculture learned how to carry impossible things—and make them look ordinary."

That line has stayed with me. Because it's true. And because I think we owe it to each other, and to the women coming up behind us, to stop treating it as ordinary. Women's contributions to agriculture don't always come with a title or a line on a balance sheet. But they show up in every harvest, every decision made around a kitchen table, every farm that keeps running because someone made sure it could. That labor deserves to be seen, which is precisely what the IYWF is asking us to do.

The IYWF is a call to raise visibility, to close gaps, and to build the kind of structures and communities that help women farmers not just survive, but lead. The ACE Summit was one expression of that call, and representing New York at this event was a privilege.

Our cohort of the Women & Mentors Program is still just getting started. The connections and programming from this cohort will continue to unfold over the coming year, and I'm genuinely excited to see what that brings for both of us and for the growers we serve.

I want to remind every NYCSGA member that your membership also includes membership to both the NCGA and the American Soybean Association (ASA). That means access to programs, leadership pipelines, national events, and networks that extend far beyond New York's borders.

I'd encourage every member, and especially the women in our industry, to explore what NCGA and ASA have to offer. Whether it's a committee, a leadership program, or a trip to Commodity Classic, these organizations open doors for new opportunities and perspectives.

The work of building a stronger, more visible community of women in agriculture is not finished in a single summit, or even a single year. But 2026 is a moment to acknowledge and recognize contributions made by women to our industry. I'm grateful Colleen and I had the chance to represent New York.

Learn more about the IYWF at fao.org/woman-farmer-2026. ■



"WOMEN ARE NOT PERIPHERAL TO FARMING IN THIS STATE, BUT ARE CENTRAL TO IT."

– Emmaline Long

Celebrating 35 years of the national Soy Checkoff

Dear U.S. soybean community,

For U.S. soybean farmers, the decision to come together 35 years ago and form the national Soy Checkoff[SM] was a defining moment that would reshape American agriculture for generations. Through collective investments into food, feed, fuel, industrial, exports and sustainable production, U.S. soybean production has grown from 1.8 billion bushels in 1990 to over 4 billion today. Because of what farmers have built together over 35 years, we've been able to create entirely new markets from the ground up like biodiesel, expand exports around the world to 90 countries and develop tools that protect yield on the farm.

The partnership between farmers and the Soy Checkoff traces back to a pivotal moment in American agriculture. For many soybean farmers, the drought of 1988 exposed the need for a national checkoff. Soon after, farmer leaders on the American Soybean Association voted overwhelmingly to pursue one, making investments available for international and domestic marketing as well as dedicated research into new uses. USB Secretary and Minnesota soybean farmer Tom Frisch believes the opportunity for every soybean farmer in the country to pool their resources and make a collective impact remains just as important 35 years later. "We need to continue to work together as U.S. soybean farmers and not isolate ourselves. We, as U.S. soybean farmers, need to champion our industry every day, every month, every year," says Frisch.

Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs) have been there every step of the way, serving as the connective tissue between national strategy and on-the-ground reality. "When I view



USB Past Chairs gather for a photo in the Soy Checkoff booth at Commodity Classic 2026 in Austin, Texas.



USB Past Chair Sandy Ludeman participates in a Soy Checkoff town hall in 1992.



USB is formed from the publication of the Soybean Promotion and Research Order under the 1990 Farm Bill.

QSSBs, they are at the grassroots level navigating concerns and opportunities with their farmers across the state. They are in touch with their local agriculture community about what's happening in their backyard," says USB Past Chair and Mississippi soybean farmer Philip Good.

As the Soy Checkoff thinks about the next 35 years, every investment made aims to grow demand, improve resiliency of the soybean crop and bring additional revenue back to the farm. "The Soy Checkoff isn't just about dollars invested from the half-million U.S. soybean farmers — it's about giving them the power to shape their own future and deliver lasting impact," says Indiana farmer and USB Treasurer Don Wyss.

One example of how powerful this partnership has proven to be is the advancement of high oleic soybean research and farmer adoption. We've seen over a million acres of high oleic across states like Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and the Delmarva region with QSSBs helping promote premiums of $0.75 to $1.25 per bushel. And there's potential to reach 5-7 million acres a decade from now. High oleic soybeans have returned nearly $400 million in premium payments to farmers — a direct return on the $130 million checkoff investment through 2025.

Another great example of partnership is the lower Mississippi River dredging project which added an additional $461 million in revenue to U.S. soybean farmers. Through checkoff investment in research, analysis and design, which kickstarted deepening the lower Mississippi River from 45 to 50 feet allowed for an increase of 500,000 bushels per ocean vessel and saves 13 cents per bushel of freight. This investment spanned collaboration with USB, the Soy Transportation Coalition, U.S. Soybean Export Council, the American Soybean Association and multiple QSSBs. "Investing in the research and engineering side of that project was a new venture for us, but it encouraged strategic thinking of how we can use checkoff funds in unique ways to improve all soybean farmers' bottom line," says Good.

As the United Soybean Board celebrates its 35th Anniversary we are proud of the work we've accomplished for every single U.S. soybean farmer. With our continued partnerships with the QSSBs we look forward to what this next chapter brings for the U.S. soybean industry. Together we can continue to deliver sustainable soy solutions to every life, every day.

Here's to the next 35 years of the U.S. soybean industry! ■



Brent Gatton
USB Chair
Kentucky

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