



## Agriculture and Markets

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**RICHARD A. BALL**  
Commissioner

November 9, 2018

Dear Stakeholder:

Managed bees are essential to agriculture and the food industry, providing honey and pollination services. They are also vital to enhancing the environment's natural resources. In an effort to preserve and grow New York's pollinator population and to promote the critical role of bees, New York State developed the New York State Pollinator Protection Plan (enclosed).

Experts from industry, academia and state government discussed the many challenges faced by pollinators, and they developed the Plan based upon those conversations and research. As a key player in the ongoing efforts to maintain a healthy bee population, we ask that you please share the New York State Pollinator Protection Plan with your members. Additional copies are available at [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration\\_pdf/nyspollinatorplan.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/nyspollinatorplan.pdf).

In the coming weeks, the Department will be hosting a series of two-hour listening sessions around the State to share steps we have taken to enhance the vitality of pollinators and to learn more about the challenges facing the beekeeping industry. These sessions will be held in the Hudson Valley, Capital Region, and Central/Western regions of the state. The agenda and locations for the sessions are as follows:

- Brief overview of the current bee health law and NYS inspection program focus (30 minutes)
- Brief overview of the Pollinator Protection Plan and progress on action items (30 minutes)
- Open discussion with participants (45 minutes)
- Wrap up (15 minutes)

### **Capital Region:**

Monday, November 19 from 2 – 4 p.m.

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Pride of NY Room

10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235

**Central/Western NY:**

Thursday, November 29 from 4 – 6 p.m.  
Geneva Public Library, Community Room  
244 N Main Street, Geneva, NY 14456

**Hudson Valley:**

Thursday, December 6 from 2 – 4 p.m.  
Westchester County Cornell Cooperative Extension Office  
3 West Main Street Suite 112, Elmsford, NY 10523

Please pass along this information to your members and encourage them to RSVP to Annalise Carroll ([Annalise.Carroll@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Annalise.Carroll@agriculture.ny.gov), or 518-485-6016). Please indicate which session will be attended.

As bee club members, your knowledge and experience will be invaluable to our discussions and future steps in conserving our pollinators. We hope you will join us at a session closest to you.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Ball  
Commissioner