What is the Food & Farm Experience?

We eat every day and every day can, and should be, a learning experience!

The Food & Farm Experience is an annual summit for conversations about, and making connections with, the people, the technology and the policies associated with the agricultural food industry. The annual event reaches out to a different targeted audience each year. It is a two-day agricultural encounter meant to expose participants to New York State’s excellence in growing crops and the production of other agricultural products used for food processing. Their learning experience is maximized by introducing them to farming and food experts, on-location farm and facility and related technologies via tours. The experience includes a full reception and dinner with local and state dignitaries as well as representatives from many non-traditional agricultural industry areas.

Needless to say, the food during the event is uniquely all produced in New York!

Taking place in October, The Food & Farm Experience puts attendees’ feet on the ground and follows the steps that agricultural products take on the journey from farm to fork. They will receive high-quality materials and other resources that provide them easy reference and access to the core of New York State’s agriculture and food industries.

Each year: The Food & Farm Experience features:

- Informal interactive sessions with twenty-five to thirty-five target group members
- An attendee roster that includes two to three individuals who are actively engaged in farming. These farmers both share experiences and learn from the other attendees by interacting directly throughout the scope of the program.
- Open conversations that allow the participants to enhance their understanding of food and farming. They will “connect” on all levels, providing networking opportunities and links to the industry that feeds them in so many ways.
- Meals and accommodations covered for all registered attendees

For more information:
To learn more about the Food & Farm Experience or to nominate someone or to apply yourself, please contact us at 1-800-342-4143 or at www.nyfbfoundation.org.

Focus on Genesee County

The Food & Farm Experience
October 19 – 21, 2016
Clarion Hotel Batavia
8250 Park Road, Batavia, NY

Genesee County, known as the “birthplace of Western New York,” is home to many agri-businesses and is located in the heart of the Greater Niagara region directly adjacent to the New York State Thruway and Portage Canal.

Genesee County produces a large diversity of crops with 132,600 acres in production. The county is in the top ten counties in New York State in grains, melons, potatoes, pigs, cattle and milk from cows. In addition, it is the number one county in the state acreage harvested for vegetables.

The progressive farming techniques utilized in the county have greatly increased the average per farm value of products sold from $22,700 (2007) to $413,500 (2012). An increase of 34% in just 5 years!

The average size farm in Genesee County is 306 acres with 8.9% of those being owned by families or individuals.

The New York Farm Bureau Foundation for Agricultural Education, Inc. has received funding from the American Agriculture Foundation, Inc. to support The Food & Farm Experience. The grant supports the Foundation’s mission to educate and promote awareness of New York State’s agricultural beauty and its relationship to the food industry.
Focus on Middle & High School Counselors

In 2016, the invited attendees will specifically be counselors who work with middle and high school students on career development and exploration. It’s a boot camp of sorts to talk about the more than 300 ag-related careers and their pathways along with the skills that students will need. Attendees will explore a wide range of careers involving science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields that enhance production agriculture throughout New York State. This includes gaining on diverse farm tours in the area; access to leaders in the food and farm industry in New York, meeting with representatives of various post-secondary education options, plus resources to take home.

Nominate Someone for the 2016 Experience

Participants are selected via a process in which nominees are reviewed and selected by the Foundation Board of Directors. Attendees in future years will come from many business sectors. These include chefs, restaurateurs, packing/manufacturing industry leaders and many more.

To nominate someone, or to self-nominate, for The 2016 Food & Farm Experience, please contact Sandra Prokop at 1-800-342-4435, e-mail: SProkop@NYSF.org or go to www.nysffoundation.org to download an application.