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July 29-31, 2020 • 9am-4pm Daily

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Empire Farm Days 2020 forced to cancel-

We are beyond upset with the decision of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors to not allow Empire Farm Days to take place at the Rodman Lott Farm on State Route 414, Seneca Falls, NY. They cited the fact that there was not enough time for the various agencies to review the permits we applied for even though we are still over 30 days out from the show dates. But in their defense, the directives from Governor Cuomo tied their hands through lack of any clear guidance for an event like this. Our attendees are from the rural areas of New York State that have had the least incidences of this virus and our exhibitors are the essential businesses that have been open throughout this whole time period. What possible harm could come to the people of Seneca County except to have hotels and restaurants as busy as possible.

Empire Farm Days is not a county fair. We do not have rides, games or the concentration of attendees that county fairs have. This is an outdoor ag community business event with a 90 year history. Now over 400 ag businesses no longer have the opportunity to meet their customers. Numerous non-profits have lost their only source of revenue. How is all of this economic activity ever going to be replaced?

We had a solid safety plan. We had heard all of the recommendations from the Health Department, Code Enforcement and Ag & Markets and could easily comply with all of them to make this event safe for attendees and exhibitors. The final straw was the Governor's executive order limiting the number of people that can currently gather in one place.

Excerpt from our notification by Seneca County Attorney David Ettman "A significant factor in the decision includes the current Executive Orders which prohibit gatherings in excess of 25 persons, except for narrowly defined exceptions. Your proposed event does not qualify for any of those exceptions. We have no reason to believe that any further lessening of the restrictions for your type of event will be forthcoming.

In addition, current Executive Orders would prohibit NY State Police assistance to Seneca County and Seneca Falls law enforcement, which we consider necessary to public safety surrounding your planned event.

We are saddened that circumstances force the county to make this decision. However, we can only make decisions that protect the safety of our community as a whole."

Apparently it is okay to have a peaceful protest with thousands of attendees with no way of knowing who they are or where they came from. We were going to have a registration list of all attendees available, exhibits were going to be spread out even more than usual, numerous extra sanitation stations were going to be on the grounds as well as by the portable toilets and food services were going to be able to comply with the current dining regulations.

Empire Farm Days sincerely feels this is an injustice to the New York Ag community, the small businesses and non-profit organizations in Seneca County that have benefitted from the event for the last 30 plus years. Tentatively our dates for next year's event are for August 3-5, 2021. Follow us on our Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter or our website at www.empirefarmdays.com for details as they come available.

In 1931, Empire State Potato Growers Association developed EFD to bring farmers the newest equipment, info & techniques. The Rodman Lott family has hosted the event since 1988, making 300 acres available for exhibits, demos and activities. Thank you, Lott family, and all those who make this the best and largest outdoor ag trade show in the Northeast!

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Testimonials

Van May

"What's nice about this show, it's laid out very well, large participation here, so we see a lot of customers. A lot of people come through the gate. We offer demo rides so they can see the new models, see how the machine is going to work for them,

Dennis Eckel

"To me, it's fun to come here because you see a lot of little kids running around who hopefully will someday get excited about farming and the business" – Dennis Eckel, Farm Credit East

Ben Wickham

“Agriculture is a really people driven business. Everybody’s always talking, whether it’s about the weather or crop prices, beef prices, hog prices. So it’s cool to come out and meet people, network.” – Ben Wickham, NYS Pork Producers

Lorne Wagner

“We need to introduce our new stuff to our customer and this is the best way to do it naturally. It’s here, they can look at it, kick the tires so to speak, and get more out of it.” – Lorne Wagner, Kuhn

Tim Call

“We like the show because it’s right centrally located and it brings a lot of people to us that probably wouldn’t come in to us any other way.” – Tim Call, Empire Tractor

Fred Greenfield

“There’s always new vendors, and new equipment coming on so it brings people here at that time. We are here because the people are here.” – Fred Greenfield, Alyne Trucking

Richard Ball

“It’s the place to be in August for growers of any kind across the state. There’s 110 acres of equipment out here farmers love to look a equipment, they love to learn things.” – Richard Ball, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

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Contact Info:

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Empire Farm Days takes place at the Rodman Lott and Son Farms, 2973 State Route 414, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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