

Did you ever wonder how much land in New York is farmland or how many farmers there are in New York State?

Do you know how many varieties of apples there are?

How many cherries grow on a cherry tree?

Who invented the potato chip?

There is so much to learn about New York's agriculture, food history, and the many delicious products from our State. And there's something for everyone: cheeses, fruits, vegetables, seafood, baked goods, juices, meats and poultry, eggs, specialty foods, and so much more.

Our foods reflect the diversity of New York's agricultural resources, food producers, and all New Yorkers.



New York State Farm to School Program

The New York State Farm to School Program connects schools with local farms and food producers to strengthen local agriculture, improve student health, and promote regional food systems awareness.

Throughout New York State, school districts are incorporating locally-produced foods into school menus and educating students about the importance of New York's farms.



In *Fascinating Food & Farming Facts* you will learn more about why you can take pride in eating local, eating Pride of New York. It's a smart and tasty thing to do.



Buy Local. Buy Pride of New York.

For more information on the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets' Farm to School Program, visit www.agmkt.state.ny.us/f2s/index.html.



New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235
800.554.4501

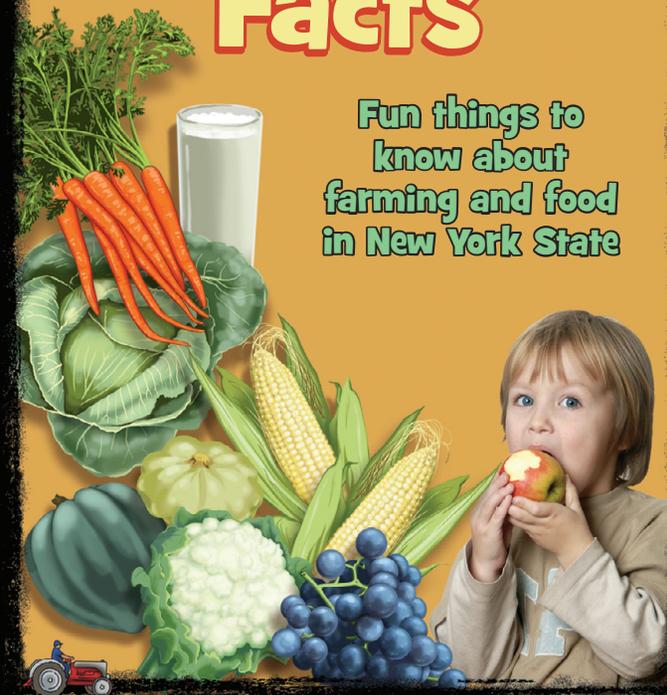
55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217
718.722.2834

www.agmkt.state.ny.us



Fascinating Food & Farming Facts

Fun things to know about farming and food in New York State





Fascinating Food & Farming Facts



How much land in New York is used for farming?

Farms cover 23% of the State's land area (7.1 million acres) and New York is home to over 36,600 farms.

Why is farming so important to New Yorkers?

New York farmers provide healthy, fresh local foods for us to eat, serve as stewards of the land by keeping spaces green and productive, employ thousands of citizens, and generate over \$4.4 billion for the State's annual economy.

How many tons of Concord grapes are processed each year in New York State?

New York is 2nd only to Washington State in production of Concord grapes. We process approximately 170,000 tons annually. Almost 3/4 (72%) of them are used for juice, making New York a top producer of grape juice.

What farm product is grown or raised more than any other in New York?

Milk. We rank 3rd in the nation for milk production with more than 5,700 dairy farms.

Can you guess the leading vegetable crops in New York State?

Cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn and snap beans. New York has the nation's largest cabbage crop, the 3rd largest cauliflower crop and 4th largest sweet corn and snap bean crops.

How many eggs does the average chicken lay each year?

A chicken lays nearly 300 eggs per year. New York has 4 million chickens producing 1.17 billion eggs annually.

How many pounds of cheese are processed in New York annually?

716 million pounds. New York is the leading producer of cottage cheese in the nation.

How many gallons of sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup?

Forty gallons of sap make one gallon of syrup! New York is the 3rd largest maple-producing state in the USA and makes about 362,000 gallons of maple syrup each year.

How many heads of cabbage are grown in New York each year?

Over 5.8 million. And did you know the sulfur in cabbage (which gives it the smell it emits) helps your body resist bacteria and grow glossy hair?

What takes up 23.8 million square feet of space in order to grow garden plants and bedding in New York?

Greenhouses. New York's floriculture industry ranks 7th nationally.

How many bushels of apples are grown in New York each year?

29.7 million. New York produces more varieties of apples than any other state. Many varieties were developed here!

How long is New York's carrot season?

Carrots are harvested from August through November, but can be stored for use all winter long.

Can you think of a vegetable that is actually a flower?

Cauliflower. New York is the 3rd largest producer of cauliflower in the USA.

What types of hard clams are found in New York's marine waters?

Chowders, Cherrystones and Littlenecks. New York is one of the largest suppliers of hard clams in the country.

Are any apple varieties native to the Big Apple (New York City)?

Newtown Pippin.

How many cherries does the average cherry tree produce?

7,000 cherries per year! This number varies depending on the age of the tree, weather and growing conditions.

Where were potato chips invented?

Saratoga Springs, New York. A Native American, George Crum, was a chef at Moon Lake Lodge when he first created the potato chip in 1853.

When was the oldest cattle ranch in New York started?

1747 in Montauk, Long Island. Today, dairy and livestock production account for 55% of New York State's agriculture industry.

What is the leading variety of apple produced in New York?

McIntosh. Empire, also a commonly-grown variety, is a New York specialty.

Does someone really peel millions of tiny carrots to fill all those packages of baby carrots at the grocery store?

"Baby carrots" are actually mechanically cut and shaped into tiny carrots from larger carrots.

Where was the first cheese factory in the United States?

Rome, New York. The factory was founded by Jesse Williams in 1851.

How many companies in New York make food products?

New York is home to nearly 3,600 food processors that make a variety of specialty items, including hundreds of ethnic foods reflecting the great diversity of cultures that call our state home.

Source of data: 2008/2009 NASS, USDA reports

