

A photograph of an apple orchard with rows of trees bearing red apples. The text is overlaid on the image.

2017

New York State
Horticulture Society
UPDATE

Capitol Hill Visit

Had the opportunity to visit with 13 senators and assemblymen to discuss the issues surrounding agriculture reform .



New Overtime Bill

New bill suggesting farm workers
overtime starting at
40 hours!

- Legislators did not believe this would pass, however, they warn that there **will be** some adjustments to the OT exemption for farm workers in coming years.
- Request for new bill to exempt H2A workers from unemployment tax.

The background of the image is a dense, overlapping collage of US one hundred dollar bills. The bills are oriented in various directions, creating a textured, financial backdrop. The text is superimposed on this background.

**Requested \$500k Grant
from the NYS Budget for
continued apple research.**

Increased Deer Pressure

Support has been requested, either financially or with DEC Regulation changes.

Special Permit Training

- Informed senators and assemblymen about pending issues with special permit training.
 - Suggested that we will need the support to ensure that a reasonable alternative is provided.

TOP 5 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES IN 2016

These bills would:

- Offer a tax credit for farmer donations to food banks and emergency food programs
- Simplify the process for school districts to order local farm products
- Authorize the sale, distribution, transportation and processing of industrial hemp
- Authorize farm vehicles to travel on highways from point of sale to the farm
- Allow farm cideries and breweries to sell other farm beverage products

**These bills passed both houses of the legislature in 2016, but need to be signed by the Governor to become law.*

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What's New?