

Turfgrass Advocacy

2010



New York State Turfgrass Association • March 10, 2010

Background

The New York Farm Viability Institute, Inc. (NYFVI) is an independent, non-profit organization that is led by farmers and dedicated to serving agricultural producers regardless of enterprise, size of business or location in New York. NYFVI fosters a vibrant agricultural/horticultural sector in New York by supporting applied research, education, information transfer, technology adoption and market analysis to reduce practical barriers to the success of farming enterprises.

NYSTA Supports NYFVI, because:

- Projects help farmers in areas that are critical to remaining competitive and viable: controlling production costs, making quality products, adopting new technology, embracing business management, market development, continuing education, applied research, and more.
- The Institute has a strong record of success. For example, \$6.6 million awarded to 75 projects reported annual, on-farm impact of \$21 million in new revenue, \$10 million in reduced farm expenses, and \$16.5 million in capital investments. That's a return on investment of 7:1! And, those farmers created 160 new jobs.
- Funded Turfgrass Projects:
 - \$80,000 - *Developing Accelerated Sod Production Methods*
- A. Martin Petrovic, Ph.D., Cornell University
 - \$40,000 - *Reducing Sod Losses from Annual Bluegrass*
- A. Martin Petrovic, Ph.D., Cornell University
 - \$198,948 - *Curbing the Economic and Environmental Impacts of Invasive Crane Fly Pests on Production Sod Farms*
- Daniel Peck, Ph.D. Cornell University
- Institute projects work with farms of all sizes, production practices, and geographic locations within the state. The Institute works with all NY agricultural sectors, including agro-forestry and maple, aquaculture, bioenergy, dairy, field crops, equine, fruit, livestock, vegetables, green industry, and more.
- Grant money is awarded, on a competitive basis, to projects that are farmer-driven and -focused. Farmers identify the priority needs and opportunities for research and outreach projects in the state. Farmers review and rank the proposals. Farmers participate in projects. Results of funded projects are non-proprietary and shared with all farmers and groups. The NYFVI board directors are each farmers.
- The Institute works with a diverse range of project leaders, including university researchers, Cooperative Extension educators, farmer groups, nonprofit organizations, private business, and more. The Institute promotes industry collaboration, and reduces redundant research and services.

Recommendation

Allocate funding for the New York Farm Viability Institute

- Restore \$4.5 million in cuts to reappropriations for NYFVI for fiscal years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09
- \$1.5 million in new funding for 2010-11, a 54% cut

Allocate \$300,000 in new funding for the New York Center for Dairy Excellence in 2010-11, a 20% cut