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Richard A. Ball

Commissioner

On January 9, 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the nomination of Richard A. Ball as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Ball has made a living in agriculture his entire life. His inspiration to become a farmer came from his grandparents, who were lifelong dairy farmers. At 18 years old, Mr. Ball began his career in agriculture as a farm worker at a vegetable farm in Rhode Island. He later became operations manager of that same farm. After 20 years in Rhode Island, Mr. Ball moved back to the Empire State with an opportunity to become a farm owner. For the past 20 years, he has been the owner and operator of Schoharie Valley Farms in Schoharie, NY, which consists of 200 acres and produces a wide range of vegetable crops, small fruits and greenhouse crops. The farm serves both retail and wholesale consumers through an onsite farm market known as "The Carrot Barn" and ships to brokers and restaurateurs in the local area as well as New York City.

Mr. Ball has held a number of positions within agriculture and community organizations at the local, state and national level, including:

- Vice President - New York State Vegetable Growers Association
- Board of Directors, Member of Executive Committee, Member of Audit Committee, Chairman of Labor Committee - New York Farm Bureau
- Member of Labor Committee (past Chairman) - American Farm Bureau
- Representative for Schoharie County - Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council
- Board of Directors (past President) - Schoharie County Farm Bureau
- President - Schoharie Valley Association
- Chairman - Schoharie Recovery, Inc., a non-profit formed to help the recovery effort from Hurricane Iret Tropical Storm Lee
- Past President - Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Ball, his wife Shirley, and his three children are actively engaged in farming with a growing number of future farmers among the grandchildren.

