

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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## IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. BARRETT, L. ROSENTHAL, J. RIVERA, GUNTHER, GLICK, LUPARDO, PEOPLES-STOKES, SEAWRIGHT, GOTTFRIED, COLTON, FAHY, LAVINE, STECK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, JONES, SIMON, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, the tax law and the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting the carbon farming act

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "carbon  
2 farming act".

3 § 2. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares  
4 that soil and vegetation management can significantly enhance soil and  
5 carbon sequestration, resulting in a wide range of environmental and  
6 agricultural benefits to New York farmers and residents, including:  
7 increased yields; soil health; improved water quality; and reductions in  
8 greenhouse gases. The legislature further declares that enhancing carbon  
9 sequestration, the long term storage of carbon in plants, soils, geolog-  
10 ic formations and the ocean, through farming is in the best interest of  
11 New Yorkers. It is therefore the intent of the legislature and the  
12 purpose of this act to encourage farmers to further sequester and miti-  
13 gate carbon in this state by establishing a carbon farming tax credit to  
14 reward and incentivize farmers to maintain or adopt practices that help  
15 maximize New York's carbon sequestration potential.

16 § 3. Section 150 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by  
17 adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

18 5. "Carbon farming" means the implementation of a land management  
19 strategy for the purposes of reducing, sequestering, and mitigating  
20 greenhouse gas emissions on land used in support of a farm operation and  
21 quantifying those greenhouse gas benefits using the United States

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 Department of Agriculture's COMET-Planner, COMET-Farm, and other quanti-  
2 fication tools.

3 § 4. Section 210-B of the tax law is amended by adding a new subdivi-  
4 sion 55 to read as follows:

5 55. Carbon farming credit. (a) Allowance of credit. A taxpayer that is  
6 an agricultural business that produces farm products shall be allowed a  
7 credit against the tax imposed by this article for the practice of  
8 carbon farming.

9 (b) Definitions. For purposes of this section the following terms  
10 shall have the following meanings:

11 (i) "carbon farming" shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
12 subdivision five of section one hundred fifty of the agriculture and  
13 markets law;

14 (ii) "farm products" shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
15 subdivision five of section two of the agriculture and markets law; and

16 (iii) "carbon sequestration" shall mean the long term storage of  
17 carbon in plants and soils.

18 (c) Such credit shall be calculated based on the economic value of  
19 carbon farming as determined by the commissioner of environmental  
20 conservation, in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture and  
21 markets and the commissioner pursuant to paragraph ccc of subdivision  
22 two of section 3-0301 of the environmental conservation law.

23 (d) The taxpayer shall attach to its tax return its final certificate  
24 of eligibility issued by the commissioner of environmental conservation  
25 pursuant to section 19-0309 of the environmental conservation law. In no  
26 event shall the taxpayer be allowed a credit greater than the amount of  
27 the credit listed on the final certificate verifying the emissions  
28 reductions to be credited to the taxpayer.

29 (e) If the amount of the credit allowable under this subdivision for  
30 any taxable year shall exceed the taxpayer's tax for such year, any  
31 amount of credit not deductible in such taxable year may be carried over  
32 to the following three years, and may be deducted for the taxpayer for  
33 such year.

34 § 5. Section 606 of the tax law is amended by adding a new subsection  
35 (kkk) to read as follows:

36 (kkk) Carbon farming credit. (1) Allowance of credit. A taxpayer who  
37 provides farm products and who practices carbon farming shall be allowed  
38 a credit against the tax imposed by this article.

39 (2) Definitions. For the purposes of this subsection, the following  
40 definitions shall apply:

41 (A) "Farm products" shall have the same meaning as set forth in subdi-  
42 vision five of section two of the agriculture and markets law.

43 (B) "Carbon farming" shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
44 subdivision five of section one hundred fifty of the agriculture and  
45 markets law.

46 (3) Application of credit. Such credit shall be calculated based on  
47 the economic value of carbon farming as determined by the commissioner  
48 of environmental conservation, in consultation with the commissioner of  
49 agriculture and markets pursuant to paragraph ccc of subdivision two of  
50 section 3-0301 of the environmental conservation law.

51 (4) Certification required. The taxpayer shall attach to its tax  
52 return its final certificate of eligibility issued by the commissioner  
53 of environmental conservation pursuant to section 19-0309 of the envi-  
54 ronmental conservation law. In no event shall the taxpayer be allowed a  
55 credit greater than the amount of the credit listed on the final certif-  
56 icate verifying the emissions reductions to be credited to the taxpayer.

1 (5) Carryover of credit. If the amount of the credit allowable under  
2 this subsection for any taxable year shall exceed the taxpayer's tax for  
3 such year, any amount of credit not deductible in such taxable year may  
4 be carried over to the following three years, and may be deducted for  
5 the taxpayer for such year.

6 § 6. Subdivision 2 of section 3-0301 of the environmental conservation  
7 law is amended by adding a new paragraph ccc to read as follows:

8 ccc. Cooperate with the department of agriculture and markets to  
9 develop educational materials to promote and encourage carbon farming.  
10 Such materials shall promote farming practices which reduce, sequester  
11 and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of  
12 carbon farming strategies and on land used in support of a farm opera-  
13 tion; and develop and codify a metric to quantify the storage of carbon  
14 using the United States Department of Agriculture's COMET-Planner,  
15 COMET-Farm, and other quantification tools. The department shall develop  
16 and distribute an application and certification procedure which verifies  
17 the carbon stored to be credited to each farm. The department may  
18 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this section.

19 § 7. Subdivision 1 of section 19-0309 of the environmental conserva-  
20 tion law, as amended by chapter 817 of the laws of 1987, is amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 1. For the purposes of sections 208, 210, 606 and 612 of the Tax Law,  
23 the commissioner or his designated representative is hereby authorized  
24 to issue certificates of compliance concerning air pollution control  
25 facilities ~~and~~, air pollution controlled process facilities and carbon  
26 farming as defined in such law. No such certificate shall be issued  
27 unless the facility to which it is applicable is in compliance with  
28 applicable provisions of titles 1 to 11, inclusive, and title 19 of  
29 article 17, article 19, and title 1 of article 27 of this chapter; of  
30 the Public Health Law; of the state sanitary code and of codes, rules,  
31 regulations, permits or orders issued pursuant thereto.

32 § 8. Section 16 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by  
33 adding a new subdivision 52 to read as follow:

34 52. Cooperate with the department of environmental conservation to  
35 develop educational materials to encourage carbon farming and how to  
36 use the United States Department of Agriculture's COMET-Planner, COMET-  
37 Farm, and other carbon quantification tools. The program shall promote  
38 farming practices which reduce, sequester and mitigate greenhouse gas  
39 emissions on land used in support of a farm operation. The department  
40 shall promote the carbon farming tax credit provided in sections two  
41 hundred ten-B and six hundred six of the tax law.

42 § 9. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
43 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment,  
44 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation  
45 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
46 completed on or before such effective date.