STATE OF NEW YORK

7861

IN SENATE

January 12, 2022

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to direct the department of agriculture and markets, in cooperation with the New York state energy research and development authority, to develop and produce guidance and educational materials on the use of agrivoltaics in farming

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

Section 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this act, the term "agrivoltaics" shall mean an arrangement of land use that collocates solar photovoltaic panels and agriculture and/or animal grazing, for the purpose of producing electricity and producing crops and/or animal farming simultaneously from a single land unit.

§ 2. Guidance and educational materials on agrivoltaics. (a) The department of agriculture and markets, in cooperation with the New York state energy research and development authority, shall develop guidance and educational materials for farmers regarding the use of agrivoltaics in farming that shall, at a minimum, contain the following:

(i) benefits impacting crop production, reduced electricity costs, and diversified revenue streams;

(ii) information on the use of high value shade-resistant crops;

(iii) potential marketing opportunities to sustainability-mindful consumers;

(iv) potentials for water use reduction;

(v) potentials for extended crop growing seasons; and

(vi) pollinator-friendly standards and practices.

(b) No later than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this act, the guidance and educational materials developed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be produced and distributed to cooperative extension offices located in the state and to New York state soil and water conservation districts, and made available on the websites of the department of agriculture and markets and the New York state energy research and development authority.

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

LBD14275-02-2

§ 3. State fair. The department of agriculture and markets shall provide a booth at the New York state fair, established pursuant to article 2-A of the agriculture and markets law, next occurring after the effective date of this act, for the purpose of educating the general public on the use of agrivoltaics in farming.

§ 4. Powers. The department of agriculture and markets and the New York state energy research and development authority may consult with any state or local office, agency, or department, request information from any such entity, or conduct any research that is relevant and material to the development of the guidance and educational materials directed to be developed pursuant to section two of this act.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.