STATE OF NEW YORK

7861--A

Cal. No. 430

IN SENATE

January 12, 2022

Introduced by Sens. MAY, RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

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 the simultaneous use of areas of land for both solar photovoltaic power generation and agriculture including the collocation of solar photovoltaic panels and production of crops and/or animal farming such as grazing on the same property.

§ 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 and institutions of higher education with expertise in agrivoltaics, shall develop guidance and educational materials for farmers regarding the use of agrivoltaics in farming that shall, at a minimum, contain the following:

(i) information about available resources to assist farmers to maximize agricultural production including, but not limited to, growing crops or grazing animals on land with collocated solar panels;

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

(iii) information about potential marketing opportunities to consumers interested in purchasing food and other agricultural products from farms that produce renewable energy and may be positively impacting climate change;

(iv) the potential for benefits such as reduced electricity costs, diversified revenue streams, and water use reduction;

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

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(v) the potential for extended crop growing seasons; and

(vi) information about pollinator-friendly standards and practices for farmland with collocated solar photovoltaic panels.

(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.

§ 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. Agricultural exhibitions, conferences and meetings. The department of agriculture and markets may make available information about agrivoltaics to farmers attending agriculture related exhibitions, conferences and meetings.

§ 5. 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.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.