

New York State Top Ten:

1. Create a Healthy Soils Program in NYS: Support research to:
  - a. Increase understanding of soil health.
  - b. Increase understanding of the connection between soil health, the nutritional value of food and human health.
  - c. Provide technical assistance and tax incentives to farms that build healthy soil and increase soil carbon.
  - d. Ensure that organic farmers are included in any program that gives incentives to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration.
2. Farm to institutions (hospitals, schools and others):
  - a. Provide incentives for sourcing NY organic food.
  - b. Legislate that state-controlled institutions serve organic food.
3. Increase supports for low-income households to purchase healthy food:
  - a. More double-up bucks.
  - b. Free breakfast and lunch programs at public schools.
  - c. Program to encourage doctors/health care agencies to prescribe healthy food, for example, [NYC Health and Hospitals program](#).
4. Mandate the Department of Agriculture and Markets reestablish an Organic Program area.
  - a. Create a position of staff “Organic Expert.”
  - b. Convene an Organic Summit to develop organic priorities for New York State for the next 3 years.
  - c. Calculate the size of the organic market in NYS and the percentage of organic imports from other states and abroad and then develop a program of import substitution to enable NYS organic farmers to satisfy NYS market demand.
  - d. Include certified organic alongside GAPS and AEM that qualify farmers for the “Certified NY” program.
5. Continue using Specialty Crop funding to pay for GAPS certification for NY farms.
6. Support fair contracts for NYS farms producing farm products and selling to retailers and processors.
7. Save the bees – ban neonicotinoids and glyphosate and take other conservation measures to optimize habitat for pollinators
8. Tax Incentives:
  - a. Support the transition to organic land use through tax incentives, technical assistance, help with paperwork,
  - b. Provide tax incentives to landowners for allowing use of land by new farmers and for community gardens.
  - c. In establishing level of taxation on farmland, take into consideration use of that land. Taxes should be higher on land uses that cause pollution of ground water and that strip off top soil.
  - d. Raise taxes on toxic pesticides and herbicides and use the revenues to encourage transition to organic.

- e. Increase incentives for the production and use of clean renewable energy on farms.
  - f. Provide tax incentives to farms that build healthy soil and increase soil carbon, and disincentives for pollution and erosion.
9. Mandate the use of organic methods to maintain state owned lands and park lands, including requirement for use of organic practices on farmland surrounding park lands that is leased to farmers.

The NYS Department of Health establishes a statewide education campaign on nutrition and the power of healthy food combined with exercise to reduce chronic diseases.