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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATTENTION FARMERS: Agricultural Renewable Energy Forum Coming to Kingston December 3rd**

Commissioner Patrick Hooker will kick off the first Agricultural Renewable Energy Forum Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, 503 Washington Avenue, in Kingston New York. The forum for the agriculture community is scheduled for 10:00am to 3:00pm and the fee is \$10 per person if registered by November 28, \$15 at the door. Pre-registration is encouraged.

The forum will highlight timely information on current programs and opportunities for farmers in their pursuit of production or utilization of renewable energy. Topics will include: agricultures opportunity with carbon cap and trade programs, Farm Bill renewable energy programs , USDA Renewable Energy Grants, NYSERDAs funding programs for renewable energy projects, NY Farm Viability Institutes opportunities for renewable energy, field trial updates on producing grasses for bio-fuels and a discussion on public policy challenges impacting the bio-fuels industry.

This event is sponsored by Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corp. and co-sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Rural Development, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NY Farm Bureau, First Pioneer Farm Credit and NY Farm Viability Institute.

For more information or to pre-register please call 518-828-4718, or download a registration form online at [www.hvadc.org](http://www.hvadc.org) and click on upcoming events.

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