



**2014 New York State Yogurt and Dairy Summit
October 20, 2014**

Margaret Dutton, DOCCS' Food Production Center Steward, represented DOCCS at the 2014 New York State Yogurt and Dairy Summit held at Cornell University on October 15, 2014. Margaret was one of approximately 80 attendees where presentations about the industry were heard from various individuals including Lt. Gov. Duffy, Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Ball, OGS Commissioner Destito, the Deans for Cobleskill and Cornell, professors, dairy farmers, vendors, NYSERDA, the Farm Bureau, dairy associations, and a farm credit representative. Panel members discussed grant opportunities, growth of the industry, accomplishments, business management resources, insurance available to avoid risk, bio fuel, barn lighting/cooling, robotic equipment and workforce/labor issues. OGS Commissioner Destito mentioned DOCCS' commitment to purchase yogurt and how OMH, DOCCS, OGS, DOH, and Ag and Markets were partners in the Buy NY initiative.

The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) added a 4 ounce vanilla yogurt to its statewide menu and serves the product twice per month. The business partnership will result in the consumption of approximately 1.2 million cups of yogurt annually while supporting upstate farms with approximately \$300,000 in purchases. More than 37% of DOCCS' total food budget supports products that are grown, produced, or packaged within New York. Acting Commissioner Annucci said, "DOCCS is working closely with our upstate New York partners to bring a new yogurt product to our inmate population – a nutritious product that has become popular and was adopted with enthusiasm in correctional facilities around New York State. Our aim is to collaborate in order to support more New York jobs while continuing to serve our agency's most basic needs."

Both Acting DOCCS Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci and Deputy Commissioner for Administration Daniel Martuscello expressed their sincere gratitude to Margaret for being a great representative at the 2014 Yogurt and Dairy Summit. Deputy Commissioner Martuscello complimented Ms. Dutton and the staff at the Food Production Center for their "tremendous amount of work in increasing our utilization of NYS Products."