



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

THE LEGAL EDGE

Vol. XIII, February 2010

*A Members-Only E-NEWSLETTER FROM NEW YORK FARM BUREAU'S
LEGAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT*

IN THIS ISSUE...

**[GUEST AUTHOR CARI RINCKER, ESQ. DISCUSSES THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT \(FOIA\) and HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT WHO IS
FINDING OUT ABOUT YOU!](#)**

**[NORTH COUNTRY BUSINESSES BEGIN TO SEE DISCOUNTS ON POWER
BILLS THANKS TO ELECTRICITY STIMULUS PLAN](#)**

**[\\$7.2 BILLION RECOVERY ACT BROADBAND PROGRAM INCLUDES FUNDS
FOR RURAL NEW YORK STATE](#)**

**Elizabeth C. Dribusch, Esq., Editor
Lisa A. Ovitt, Paralegal, Associate Editor**

Welcome to The Legal Edge, a publication of the NYFB Legal Affairs Department. It is our intent to provide you with valuable information on cutting edge legal matters as well as ways to help you improve your bottom line as a farmer, as a member of the agribusiness community, or as a property owner. This newsletter contains brief snapshots of issues of interest and provides links that you can follow to get more information about these topics.

Enjoy, and please let us know what you think!

**GUEST AUTHOR CARI RINCKER, ESQ. DISCUSSES THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) and HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT WHO IS
FINDING OUT ABOUT YOU!**

Cari Rincker, a panel speaker at our October, 2009 conference in Albany entitled "Farm Animal Welfare Legal Conference: What Every Livestock Owner Needs to Know – A

Positive Approach” tells us about the Freedom of Information law on both the New York State and federal levels.

Click on the link below for the full article:

[The New York Agriculture Producer’s Guide to FOIA and FOIL: How to Get the Information You Need From Government Agencies](#)

NORTH COUNTRY BUSINESSES BEGIN TO SEE DISCOUNTS ON POWER BILLS THANKS TO ELECTRICITY STIMULUS PLAN

Announced in the spring and expanded in the fall to include dairy farmers, the Temporary North Country Electricity Stimulus Plan has resulted in approximately 3500 businesses beginning to see an 8 to 10% discount on electric bills, with credits dating back to November. (Dairy farmers billed at the residential rate will receive a check every quarter.) The program is funded from the sale of unused St. Lawrence-FDR power into the State’s wholesale electricity market and is intended to kick-start the north country local economy.

Click on the link below or copy it into your browser for more information:

www.state.ny.us/governor/press/press_1027092_print.html

\$7.2 BILLION RECOVERY ACT BROADBAND PROGRAM INCLUDES FUNDS FOR RURAL NEW YORK STATE

A nationwide \$7.2 billion broadband grant and loan program to bring high-speed internet to communities that currently have little or no access to the technology kicked off in December. More than 70 rural communities in upstate New York will receive a grant and matching funds to build fiber optics and a broadband infrastructure, and a combination of grant money and a loan will build a fiber optic network reaching into five towns in rural Franklin County.

Click on the link below or copy it into your browser for more information:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2009/12/0621.xml

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU, INC.
Legal Affairs Department
159 Wolf Road
P.O. Box 5330
Albany, NY 12205-0330
(518) 436-8495
1-800-342-4143

The information contained herein is provided for informational purposes only; it is not intended to be, nor should it be considered, a substitute for legal advice rendered by a competent attorney. If you have any questions about the application of the issues raised herein to your particular situation, seek the advice of a competent attorney.

To Unsubscribe to this E-Newsletter, please click here: legal@nyfb.org and request to be removed from The Legal Edge List. Please include your full name and mailing address or your membership number so we can better serve you. Thank you.