



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Jim Barber is the fifth generation to operate his family's 400 acre farm in the Schoharie Valley of NY State. After graduating from Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1979, he and his wife Cindy raised their three children on the family farm. Together they worked full time to help shepherd it through a gradual transition from a commercial dairy, hay and wholesale vegetable operation to its current incarnation as a progressive direct retail fruit and vegetable farm with 14,000 sq ft of greenhouse space for retail bedding plant and field transplant production. The farm currently produces over 60 different fruits and vegetables on 200 acres of land to supply the home farm stand, three mobile farm stands, three farmers markets and a CSA.

Over the past 30 years Jim has been very active in many community organizations and industry leadership positions. A few of these include: selection into the second class of the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute in 1987; he served as President of the NY State Vegetable Growers Association; was a State Director for the NY Farm Bureau; served as an Advisory Board member to the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and served 5 years as a member of his local school board. Jim was also a founding member and President of NY Farms! which was an organization designed to bring together non-traditional partners in the food system to work toward common goals. This organization developed the genesis of the current Farm to School initiative which is now adopted nationwide.

In April 2007 Jim was appointed as a special Assistant to the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture. In July of 2009 he was appointed as NY FSA State Executive Director.