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## **MATT COLE SELECTED FOR LEAD NEW YORK CLASS 12**

### **LEAD New York Program Provides Professional Development Opportunities**

Matt Cole, Director of Business Development for Commodity Resource Corporation has been selected to participate in an intensive 2-year leadership development program for New York State's food and agricultural industry. LEAD New York, established 22 years ago as the Empire State Food and Agricultural Leadership Institute, has inspired over 300 graduates to take on leadership roles and make meaningful contributions in virtually every segment of the food and agricultural industry.

LEAD New York consists of 50 days of seminars, workshops, and field travel experiences both in and out of New York State, including a week-long international study trip. It is designed for women and men who provide leadership to the food and agricultural industry. The program focuses on leadership skill development, civic engagement, a greater understanding of agricultural issues and cultivating leadership networks.

Participants enter the program with diverse backgrounds, goals and levels of leadership experience, but all share a common commitment to the future of New York's food and agriculture system. Through LEAD New York they will become immersed in the latest trends, issues, perceptions and technological advancements in food and agriculture and get hands-on experience through facility tours and face-to-face meetings with influential figures.

Class members improve leadership and communication skills including public speaking, meeting management, effective listening, and conflict resolution while building valuable professional relationships. The program enhances an overall understanding of agriculture and our food system from production to consumption, allowing individuals to seek creative solutions to today's problems and anticipate tomorrow's needs.

For more information about LEAD New York, please visit [www.leadny.org](http://www.leadny.org), or contact Larry Van De Valk, Director at 607-255-6891 or [lv4@cornell.edu](mailto:lv4@cornell.edu)