

**Title** - ACSF Topical Lunch - *Building Collaboration for a Vibrant and Inclusive Regional Food Systems (RFS) Initiative at Cornell*

**Host** – Kathi Colen Peck, Program Specialist, Regional Food Systems, Horticulture Section

**Date** – Thursday May 19, 2016 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

**Abstract:** Public interest in food is very high as consumers want to know where and how their food was grown and what technologies were used in its production. Increased purchases of locally-sourced foods has revived and sustained the agricultural economy in New York State, and is often seen as a mechanism for improving health and reducing the environmental impacts of growing and transporting food from distant locations. However, New York State's food system, like those in all other regions around the US, faces significant challenges and issues, including unequal access to healthy food, changing climate and growing patterns/conditions, natural resource and food waste, and untapped social, economic, agricultural and environmental opportunities. These issues and opportunities stem from no single point of origin nor can they be attended to by a single approach. Instead, addressing them from a holistic position can identify key areas where transformative change needs to take place, which in turn will promote resiliency, diversity, justice, good health and economic growth within New York State's communities and their corresponding food systems.