

NO FARMS, NO FOOD



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NO FOOD

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The average distance food travels from farm-to-plate is between 1,500 and 3,000 miles. Combine that number with the fact that most experts agree that we have reached the top of the curve for the production of oil, reflecting the difficulty of continuing to find new supplies, and you can see we have a real problem for our working families. Prices are going to continue to rise for food and fuel.

Add to that the fact that Connecticut has the dubious achievement of leading the nation in the percentage of farm land lost every year (approximately 9,000 acres) and that New London County leads Connecticut in that loss, and the need for some innovation becomes obvious.



PROPOSALS

- I am proposing a bold program to SAVE OUR FARMS. Our small farms add to the diversity of our economic web; they don't move off shore; they are labor intensive and buy from local suppliers; and they give us Food Security and Food Safety (remember the pets tragically dying from imported unsafe food).

- I am proposing a public/private partnership to reach out and help our young graduates of the Future Farmers of America, our Vocational Agriculture programs, and UConn and Cobleskill's Agricultural Programs. This will be a way to give these young farmers a chance to farm our most productive land with a helping hand from a partnership between government and business, in fact, to treat them as the vibrant, productive small businesses that they are.

This program will also have vast ramifications for our tourist industry, as I envision many small niche farms attracting people to our state. Like Terra Firma Farm, a working farm for children in Stonington, or the Davis Homestead, Farm and Museum featuring the venerable Witt Davis, who has protected the original Native American Corn Seeds. His Johnny Cakes are legendary!

We have 122 Farmers' Markets in Connecticut. I would like to see that number double or even triple. Remember, we are uniquely located between International Airports in Boston and New York and can encourage international travelers to take advantage of the weak dollar by spending their money touring our farmers' markets as well as other area attractions!

I would love suggestions as I intend to move forward with this, so please e-mail me at Diana.Urban@cga.ct.gov.

And stay tuned, we are planning a forum!



Questions? Concerns?

Contact

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