

LOCAL FARMS ARE OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

Dear Neighbor,

Farming plays a significant role in the Connecticut economy and contributes to the livelihood of our local communities. In fact, CT agriculture is a growing and diverse \$3.5 billion industry that represents over 20,000 jobs across the state. That is why this legislative session, I introduced and worked to pass bills that are vital in ensuring our farmers have the tools and resources they need to succeed in this competitive market. These bills will assist in maintaining strong and vibrant farms in communities across the state and help farmers provide our children with fresh and healthy food and maintain Connecticut's beautiful character.

Sincerely,



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SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

This past session I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help protect our farms and guarantee funding to the Department of Agriculture:

1. **HB 6333, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RELATING TO THE FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT**, designates the Department of Agriculture as the lead agency for the enforcement of the Food Safety Modernization Act. DoAg is uniquely equipped to handle compliance with FSMA within the farming communities around the state. (PA 17-208)
2. **SB 943, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF CERTAIN SOLAR FACILITIES ON PRODUCTIVE FARMLANDS, INCENTIVES FOR THE USE OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS BY AGRICULTURAL CUSTOMER HOSTS, APPLICATIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF KEMP IN CERTAIN BIOFUELS AND THE PERMITTING OF WASTE CONVERSION FACILITIES**, enables the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to authorize additional funds for agriculture customer hosts using an anaerobic digestion renewable energy source as a vital net metering facility. (PA 17-218)
3. **HB 5928, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MANUFACTURER PERMIT FOR FARM BREWERS**, will establish two new liquor permits: a farm brewery permit and a farm distillery permit. These allow permittees to manufacture, distribute at wholesale and sell “Connecticut Craft Beer” that they manufacture on their farms. (PA 17-160)

