

Dear Senator Harp,

3/21/11

My name is Sarah Turoczi and I am a sophomore in the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience and Technology Program in Woodbury. I live in Woodbury and I attend this regional agriscience school choice Program because my dream is to become a Dairy Farmer and this school teaches with SAE (supervised agriculture experience) and in the class room work: Hands on experiences. I have my own Dairy farm but with Dairy goats and soon to be cows. This program has taught me how to properly care for my animals and furthermore all about the animal itself. At my home I started out with Toggenburg and Saanen Dairy goats. I am in 4-H and I have shown goats for 8 years now. I also am in 4-H and show Yorkshire/ Landrace pigs. I have a Jersey cow named Sadie and she is now pregnant. I also have about 50 chickens which I sell their eggs. I am in three different 4-H clubs and show my animals at the fairs. I also work at a dairy farm, Alpaca farm, horse farm and I have worked with other animals as well. My parents own a Native Plant nursery Called Earth Tones and I have also worked with them. So all in all I am around agriculture all of the time.

The ag program has helped me because I am on the Dairy Judging team and it is helping me learn more about cows which will be good when I own my dairy farm so I can make smart choices is developing my herd for the future. It has enhanced my knowledge so I am better prepared for the future. The ag production class also went a 4 day trip to Canada and we went to the Royal Winter Fair which we saw some of the most amazing cows in the world. We also went to the horse show and it was just astronomical. We watched and saw some of the best animals and there handlers. We also went to 3 large dairy farms in New York and we saw a rotary, a dairy farm with robots and a normal dairy farm that had over a 1,000 cows and they we all keep very nice and healthy. We got to experience things that many other people do not.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sarah Turoczi