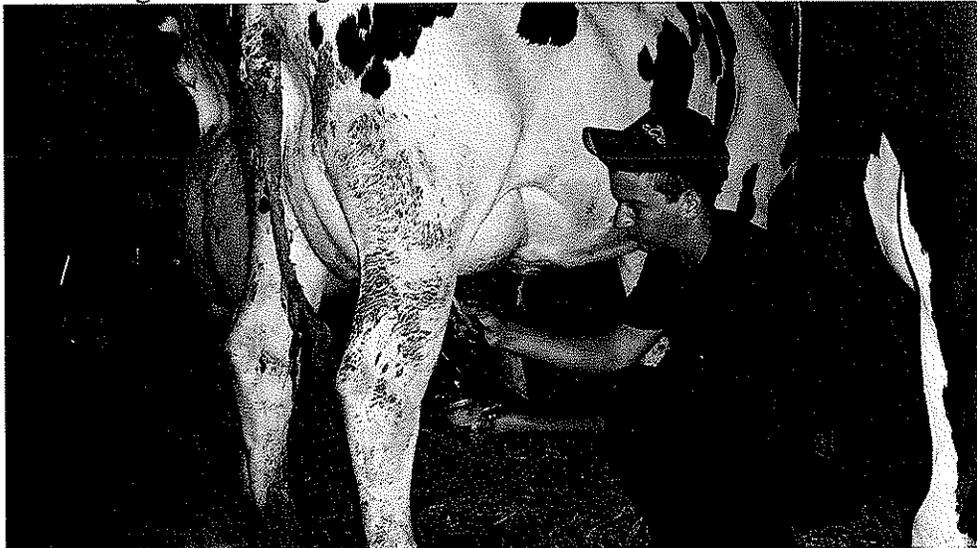


Dear Senator Harp,

3/21/11

My name is Andrew Samela and I am a junior in the Ellis Clark agriscience program in Woodbury Connecticut. I live in Woodbury and I attend this regional agriscience school choice Program because I enjoy the opportunities that are given to us students from being in this program. The experience and knowledge I have obtained in this program has way surpassed anything I have learned in the traditional high school. I work almost every day at a dairy farm milking cows and producing milk for the public to use, agriculture is very important to the entire world and is how we all eat. The agriscience teaches us real life practical skills and knowledge to pursue a career in agriculture. I work at Devil's Backbone Farm I have over 2000 hours of working there when I graduate high school I want to follow a career as a herdsman which is a person who manages the milking herd of cows on a farm.



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,
Andrew Samela

Andrew Samela