

State Senator Toni Harp
Appropriations Committee Co-Chair
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700,
Hartford CT, 06106-1591

3/21/11

Dear Senator Harp,

My name is Erika Spino and I am a sophomore in the Wamogo Regional High School agriscience program in Litchfield. I live in Goshen and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I am interested in the animal science. I love agriculture because it gives me opportunities that I would never receive in a traditional high school. I want to get the extra education of animals earlier, because in my future I plan on working in the veterinary field of work. The SAE that I have is taking care of my dairy cow, Meadow. I just recently brought Meadow to Wamogo to have her bred. She has been having complications, and the school has helped me improve and hopefully allow her to have a calf in the winter of next year. The FFA will really help me in my future because of the basic knowledge and responsibilities it teaches me. For example, I have never been fond of public speaking, but the FFA has given me information and the ability to speak smoothly and gain confidence.

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,

