

Dear Committee Members,

As owners of a family farm which has been in business since 1746, we urge you to reconsider proposed cuts to the Dept.of Agriculture and the CT Ag Extension Centers. Small family farms like ours depend heavily on their expertise and knowledge and we believe they do an amazing job with their already very streamlined organization. Please allow them to help us make safe, local food a priority, and allow the momentum in local agriculture to grow.. Keeping our agricultural heritage is so very important to the State of Connecticut! Denying farms the benefit of these valuable resources will only hurt the economy in the long run, as we have seen when farms go under - the land becomes subdivisions, and all associated costs rise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan and Sam Averill