

Appropriations Committee-

Please consider the testimony below during your deliberations on the Governor's Bill No. 5044.

My wife and I own Broken Arrow Nursery and Tree Farm in Hamden. We are disturbed by current budget plans that will affect the ability of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to assist growers. This agency has been crucial for our farm to continue to operate, because it has provided timely advice on proper soil fertility and management of weeds insects, and disease pests that affect the quality of the trees and plants we grow. There are no other comparable resources readily available to us.

Our farm has directly benefited from the following:

Environmentally sound weed management practices that preserve beneficial vegetation and help prevent soil erosion,

Practices that prevent waste of fertilizers that could pollute our state's waters

Insect management that is environmentally sound and effective on old and new invasive pests

Soil management practices that prevent losses of trees from root rot diseases

Without the valuable resources of the scientists of the CAES it is doubtful if we could continue to farm 35 acres and maintain a staff of 15 (full and part time). Without successful farms Connecticut will have even less open space. We ask that the Legislature consider the importance and value of the vast research and many services of the CAES that we farmers and others in Connecticut rely on. Please maintain adequate funding for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

The CT Department of Agriculture has also been a critical resource for our farm and others in Connecticut's Christmas tree industry (e.g. the CT Grown program, farm reinvestment support) - funding needs to be maintained at adequate levels to maintain economically viable farms in Connecticut.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Jaynes
13 Broken Arrow Rd., Hamden, CT 06518
203 248 1018