



GROWING CONNECTICUT'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Connecticut's farms and farmers are an important part of our future. Our greenhouses, nurseries, dairies, poultry and egg producers, tobacco fields, vineyards, shellfish beds, and fruit, grain, vegetable, and tree farms contribute \$4 billion to the state's economy, support tens of thousands of good jobs, preserve hundreds of thousands of acres as farmland and open space, and provide residents across the state both an important source of fresh food and a vital retreat from urban life.

During this campaign, I've visited with farmers whose families have worked the land in Connecticut for generations. I've also heard from young and beginning growers committed to building a successful and diverse agricultural community. With the right partner in Hartford, those farmers will be able to triumph over challenges like depressed milk prices and seize new opportunities like hops and industrial hemp production.

As governor, I will:

- **Protect an independent Department of Agriculture** and provide its staff and programs the funding they need to protect and grow the agricultural economy.
- **Support programs funded by the Community Investment Act** and protect Investment Act funds from last-minute legislative raids.
- **Drive down property taxes** on agricultural land by encouraging towns to share appropriate services and seize opportunities for intermunicipal efficiencies.
- **Continue the Farmland Preservation Program** and the bond funding required to ensure land remains available for agricultural use.
- **Promote Connecticut agricultural exports** by standing up against harmful tariffs imposed by



Washington and exploring opportunities to expand trade for Connecticut farmers in overseas markets like Cuba and China.

- **Help farmers navigate FSMA requirements** by continuing educational, outreach, and technical assistance programs, and emphasizing compliance assistance over punitive fines.
- **Bring industrial hemp to market** by taking full advantage of provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill and enacting the regulatory architecture necessary for hemp to be successful in Connecticut.
- **Guarantee a robust market for Connecticut agriculture** by providing funding for local school districts that increase purchases of Connecticut Grown farm products.
- **Fully incorporate agriculture into Connecticut's economic development strategy** by directing DECD to support farming-related startups and expansions.
- **Ensure the availability of appropriate crisis management services** for farmers, including mental health, financial planning and transition planning services.
- **Help aspiring, young, and beginning farmers** by providing educational programs, assisting with land acquisition, and streamlining permitting processes.
- **Grow business opportunities for farmers** to produce and sell value-added agricultural products like tomato sauces, cheeses, and beers.
- **Market Connecticut agritourism** as a destination to our neighbors.