



2020 Public Policy Priorities

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Joan Nichols
78 Beaver Rd.
Suite 2A,
Wethersfield, CT 06109
O: (860) 768-1100
C: (860) 951-2791
Joann@cfba.org
www.cfba.org

- Support continuation and full funding of the Community Investment Act and the critical programs it funds in support of agriculture.
- Continue to encourage the development of on-farm anaerobic digester projects. They create multiple environmental benefits. A streamlined, expeditious and financially feasible permitting and regulatory process by CT DEEP is still needed and essential to the success of these projects.
- Encourage the establishment of a farm natural gas rate, similar to the farm electric rate, and expand the membership of the CT Siting Council to include a representative from Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.
- Maintain science based state and federal agency only jurisdiction over the regulation of pesticides and herbicides in Connecticut.
- Support transportation policy that improves infrastructure without increasing the cost of transport of agricultural products, inputs and supplies by trucks. Support access to deep-water ports and freight lines for the movement of agricultural products and commodities.
- Support changes to the CT Winery Act whereby all wineries that qualify as small wineries (producing 55,000 gallons or less) be required to produce at least 25% of their alcohol volume from CT Grown fruit in order to qualify for the benefits provided under CGS 30-16.
- Support any changes to the Hemp Pilot Program to improve workability for CT farmers.

Continued support for policies that support CT agriculture:

- Continuation of a stand-alone, cabinet level Department of Agriculture.
- Full funding for farmland preservation.
- Adequate funding for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiments Station, the Agri-science and Technology Program and the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut.
- Oppose any changes to PA 490, CT's Current Use Assessment Law for farmland, forest land, open space and maritime heritage land that would negatively impact the intent of the legislation and loss of land to development.
- Continuation of the Farmer sales tax exemption and Off-road fuel tax exemption.