



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development



Agricultural Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

MINUTES

All members of the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development except Michael Keilty attended the town hall meeting, joined by an additional 122 stakeholders from Connecticut's agricultural industry who participated in the event.

Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky welcomed participants and provided an overview of the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development along with its strategic plan, Grow Connecticut Farms.

Commissioner Reviczky then provided an introduction to the first topic, Food Safety Modernization, followed by short presentations by Diane Hirsch from the University of Connecticut and William Dellacamera from Cecarelli Farm. Stakeholders provided input to the panel, which engaged in a discussion of the topic.

Commissioner Reviczky introduced the second topic, Infrastructure and Wholesale Markets, followed by short presentations by Joe Geremia from Geremia Greenhouse, Stacia Monahan from Stone Gardens Farm, and Kathy Smith from the Farmer's Cow. Stakeholders provided input to the panel, which engaged in a discussion of the topic.

Lunchtime presentations included an overview of the master planning project at the Hartford Regional Market by Ted Spitzer from Market Ventures and a discussion of the legislative process and introduction of the 2014 session of the Connecticut General Assembly by George Krivda from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

After lunch, Commissioner Reviczky introduced the third topic, Producer Education and Innovation, followed by short presentations by Joe Geremia from Geremia Greenhouse and Dr. Richard Fu from Agrivolution. Stakeholders provided input to the panel, which engaged in a discussion of the topic.

Commissioner Reviczky provided an introduction to the final topic of the day, Marketing, followed by short presentations by Randy Fiveash from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Tourism, Kevin Donahue from Imperial Nurseries, and Gary Yerman from the New London CV Pier. Stakeholders provided input to the panel, which engaged in a discussion of the topic.

Photos and slides from speaker presentations are available on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's website at www.CTGrown.gov/GovernorsCouncil.