



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Office of Steven K. Reviczky  
Commissioner*



**TO:** Benjamin Barnes, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
**FROM:** Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner of Agriculture  
**RE:** Federal Government Shutdown Contingency Planning  
**DATE:** October 1, 2013

Secretary Barnes,

I am writing this in regards to your request of September 24<sup>th</sup> pertaining to the shutdown of the federal government. You asked for a written assessment of the potential impact on my agency's programs and operations as well as recommended steps for mitigating any risks.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has two employees who are fifty percent funded through federal funding. Additionally, we have one current PSA that is funded through a Specialty Crop Block Grant. As Specialty Crop Block Grants are funded through the federal Farm Bill, SCBG monies are also frozen.

The department receives federal grants through the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, which can range from \$4 million to \$6 million from year to year. The shuttering of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has halted our work in this regard.

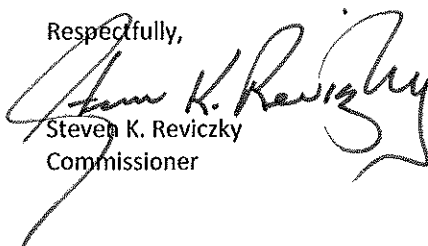
The department is engaged in two cooperative agreements with the USDA which will have an impact on public health and safety: Animal Traceability and Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). The federal portion of this agreement is now suspended.

Additionally, we receive federal funding for the following programs/budget lines:

- Egg Inspection and Grading
- National Organic Program
- Risk Management
- WIC Fresh Produce
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition
- Avian Influenza Account
- Foreign Animal Disease Account
- Map for Farms Program
- National Animal Identification
- CT WAgN D&E Risk Management
- Labeling Retail Surveillance
- FSMIP Grant
- Farmland Preservation Reimbursement
- Community Investment FPR
- FEMA Reimbursement

The total amount in federal funding listed about, excluding employee salaries and monies associated with Specialty Crop Block Grants, totals \$4,072,953.56.

Respectfully,

  
Steven K. Reviczky  
Commissioner