

# LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Across America there is an increasing interest in and demand for locally produced food. Over the last two years publishing *Edible Nutmeg*, we have seen a growing recognition of what amounts to true food security—a readily available variety of quality foods produced by conscientious local farmers.

In Connecticut we are fortunate. Though our resources have been diminished, there are still working family farms and enough land suitable for farming that we can significantly increase local food production if unwarranted economic and logistical roadblocks are not put in the way of those wishing to work the land.

The Town Council and citizens of New Milford are to be commended for adopting a Right to Farm ordinance on July 28, 2008. We have not seen the final version, but the gist of the ordinance maintains that as long as a farm is following commonly accepted farming practices as well as all published codes and regulations, it cannot be considered a nuisance. This should make it much less likely that a neighbor (or neighboring landowner with development dreams) will be able to hinder a farm's operations simply because they take exception to the dusts and smells, slow tractors and fumes, noise and early hours that are sometimes a necessary accompaniment to feeding us all.

We congratulate members of the New Milford Farmland Preservation Committee who initiated the ordinance, and particularly Dan Readyoff and Steve Kleppin, who crafted and refined it in cooperation with the Town Council.

A Right to Farm ordinance does not eliminate all the challenges faced by current and future farmers. It does, however, alleviate one potential obstacle. Moreover, its adoption offers some emotional and practical encouragement for towns and land trusts seeking to preserve land not only to retain its scenic beauty, but also to maintain or restore its productivity as a working farm.

We know of only two towns that have previously adopted some form of Right to Farm ordinance: Woodstock in 2000 and North Stonington in 2007. Please join us in thanking all three towns for their foresight and in urging other towns to follow their leadership.

Thank you.

Robert Lockhart  
Editor and Co-Publisher

Mary E. Adams  
Co-Publisher

