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Bowdoinham
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We operate a MOFGA certified organic diverse vegetable farm that sells to farmers markets, restaurants, and processors. We were notified that we are abutters to a sludge spreading site in a Tier 1 town. We felt it was our duty to our customers and community to get our well water tested because that water is used to grow and wash our vegetables, and provide drinking water for our family of five. To perform this test required several hours to order the sampling kit, take samples using very specific protocols, fill out paperwork and hand deliver samples to the lab to maintain the sample integrity, plus \$385.00 in lab fees. A total cost to the farm of around \$500 for a single water test.

We were extremely fortunate and found that we did not have PFAS concentrations above action thresholds. However, what we did was the BARE MINIMUM of what any farm needs to do if they simply want to be a responsible citizen. We anticipate REPEATING this test in subsequent years because groundwater pollutants may take many years to travel through the ground as our well pulls water and potentially pollutants up to the surface. We now need to budget at least \$500 every year that won't be spent on seeds, fertilizer or local labor that would otherwise be used to grow food for our community. Any farm that is being responsible to its customers will perform these tests, and be burdened with the costs, adding yet another challenge to an already challenging vocation. We find it deeply unfair that our family farm is picking up the externalized costs from multi billion dollar chemical companies that knew the hazards of what they made.