

Brady Hatch
Morning Dew Farm, Newcastle
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I have been farming commercially in Maine for 17 years. In 2020, we began a large infrastructure project on our farm, supported in part by a DACF Farms for the Future grant and an associated FAME AMLF loan. I know firsthand that the state of Maine knows to invest in farmers. I know first hand that Mainers entrust their health, their local food supply and open-space land preservation to farmers. This bill is an investment in farmers and a preservation of that public trust.

This bill is an investment because with this funding, farmers can rise from the devastating revelation that their farms are contaminated. It shows that the state values their hard-earned knowledge and that their experience and markets need not be lost to economic ruin, especially since that economic ruin was due to a practice sanctioned and licensed by the state.

This bill is a preservation of trust because it supports farmers who have put food safety, public health and transparency first.

We tested our farm wells because we know the value of the trust our customers put in us to grow their food. We are grateful that the safe drinking water standards in our results mean that our farm doesn't personally need this bill. But Maine needs this bill. I urge you to support it and with it, Maine's local food economy.