



May 2022

Dear Erica and William,

In Connecticut there's a young person struggling against the odds to create a future in farming. With your gift powering Connecticut Farmland Trust's work, that beginning farmer stands a chance of beating those odds. Your last gift made great things happen. *Will you make a gift of \$100 today?*

"Losing" shouldn't be an option, but you and I both know that Connecticut farmland is being lost — every day. When I wrote to you last month in the Gratitude Report about my Ohio childhood watching rich farmland steadily paved over for big box stores and sprawling subdivisions, did you remember similar experiences of your own? Many Connecticut Farmland Trust supporters wrote or called to tell me "YES!"

Many of you described happy moments first: one person told me about spending summers on her grandparents' farm, chasing chickens, playing on the tractor, and eating the garden's sweet corn. Another told me about visiting a pumpkin patch with his family every fall to pick out their jack-o-lanterns to carve for Halloween.

But as joyful as many of the memories were, each was tinged with grief because the stories ended with people selling the farms. Grief for the loss of connection to soil. Sadness from the loss of family Halloween traditions.

Memories were also tinged with fear — fear that young people won't want to farm in the future, regardless of whether we have farmland.

You don't have to sit with that fear. *Your gift matters because you have the power to ensure that doesn't come to pass.* I'm here to say there is a next generation of farmers, and you can help them succeed. Your prior donations, in fact, have already got the ball rolling.

Let me introduce you to Dan and Tina Greenwood. They grew up in a middle-class Connecticut suburb, and were told in high school the secret to success is a career that sits you at a desk in an office.

Despite that, in March of this year, Dan and Tina purchased a 36-acre Connecticut Farmland Trust-preserved farm. They have already started renovating the farm's century-old farmhouse to begin the process of establishing "Greenwood Holistic Farm" in Ellington, with their three children.

The former owners, John and Gloria Wraight, worked with Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) to list the property on CT FarmLink, a relatively new partnership between CFT and the CT Department of Agriculture. That's where Dan and Tina found their dream farm. They could afford the farm because John and Gloria chose to generously donate the development rights on their farm to CFT, knowing that doing so would reduce the property's value and make it affordable to the next generation of farmers. Farmers like Dan and Tina.



The new owners of "Greenwood Holistic Farm"

(over)

Dan and Tina are forward thinking and envision a farm that carefully regenerates the soil's fertility and builds up topsoil over time, leaving farmland that will be more productive for future generations than for themselves. When I saw their smiles after a month of tirelessly rehabbing the farmhouse, I was confident they have the energy and persistence to succeed at their vision. Dan and Tina are an impressive powerhouse team.

*But they wouldn't have gotten this far without you, Erica and William.*

You and I share a belief in the critical importance of farmland in our lives and our future. You've helped CFT protect farmland and continue to ensure farms we've already protected are available for farming forever.

You and I, we have a lot to take pride in. By the end of 2018, the 16th anniversary of Connecticut Farmland Trust's formation, we had protected 50 farms. Only four years later, we are on track to say that number will be close to 75 farms by the end of this year.

With you on our side, we have leveraged significant financial resources from state and federal government agencies over the past 20 years for the purchase of agricultural easements. We have leveraged nearly \$17 in public funds for every \$1 we've raised privately.

But the government doesn't pay for the people and other resources needed behind the scenes to protect key family farms. This critical work doesn't get off the ground without you. Farmland loss is real and accelerating, but working with you, so is our work to preserve it and connect it to new farmers. Will you consider what you can invest in us this spring?

Thank you for considering a gift of \$100.



Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth Moore".

Elisabeth Moore  
Executive Director

P.S. Erica and William, your gift of \$100 could make a huge difference toward our \$20,000 goal this May. Please, while you have my letter in your hand, fill out the reply envelope and send a gift, or donate online through our website - [www.ctfarmland.org](http://www.ctfarmland.org). I'll be in touch in June about how we put your gift to work.

*For Farmers, Forever!  
-but only with your help.  
Please make your gift today.*