

## **Home Grown Politics Across NH Farmland to Concord and Washington**

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture Markets and Food (DAMF) is turning 100 years old this fall and winter. A team from the Department and the Legislature and others are planning a celebration, and the Grange is participating in the planning and the celebration. In October we are going to have an event on the lawn in front of the State House and in the Annex, where the Department is housed. Later at Farm and Forest in February, there will be a second celebration of the anniversary.

I have volunteered the Grange to do two things for the celebration. I am going to ask Grangers to bake pies for the October Celebration. The Associated Women of the Farm Bureau are going to join with us and bake pies that will be served with NH-made ice cream at the Department's conference room. We are looking for fruit pies made with NH grown fruits.

The second thing that the Grange is responsible for is to generate a list of every farm in the state that is 100 or more years old, in the same family and on the same land. I have asked in an e-mail blast from Hannah and I am asking again. Every Subordinate Grange in New Hampshire, please identify every farm in your town and its surrounding towns that is 100 years old and let me know the name of the farm, the owner, when the farm started and what they grow. It can be sent to:

**Bob Haefner  
1 St. John St.  
Hudson, NH 03051**

You may also call 889-1553 and leave a message or contact me by e-mail: [bhaefner@nhgrange.org](mailto:bhaefner@nhgrange.org). So far I have only heard from two of you. We need 63 more subordinates to respond.

Beth Merrill, Gloria Davis, Matt Haefner, and I participated with Manchester Grangers Ellen Weiss and Stu Light to recognize World War II veterans at the NH Veterans Home in Tilton. It was a rewarding day. Did you know that the youngest WW II vet is 85 years old, unless they lied about their age when they enlisted?

Our Worthy State Master represented the NH State Grange at the National Grange Legislative Fly In, and, as usual, represented us well. He spent time visiting and lobbying for the Grange with all four members of our Congressional Delegation. I was not able to attend, as Representative Sad from Walpole Grange and I were in attendance at the annual meeting of State Agriculture and Rural Leaders, Ag Chairs summit, where we met with Legislative Agriculture Leaders from across the country and Canada.

We are in the midst of planning the Agriculture Breakfast to be held at the National Grange Convention in Manchester. Tara Sad and I have been meeting with the convention center and are planning a breakfast with pancakes, NH maple syrup, scrambled eggs from NH and meats also from NH as well as yogurt, berries, and potatoes, all local. The Commissioner of Agriculture will be our guest and Steve Taylor will be the speaker. We are working on getting our Governor and both of our Senators for the convention as well.

It is fair season again. I hope all of our Granges have displays in at least one of the many fairs across our state. Grange Day at the Big E is September 22 this year. I understand that our National Master will be in attendance. NH needs to have a good showing. I would love to see every Subordinate Grange have two or more people march in the parade that day. Did you know that the Big E is listed as the country's 5th largest fair, based on the number of visitors. Come march in the parade, visit the Grange Building and the New Hampshire building, tour the grounds and eat some fair food. See you all at the Big E.