

Home Grown Politics Across NH Farmland to Concord and Washington

The last time I wrote this column I was asking for pies and Century farms. The pies are made, delivered to the DAMF for the Centennial Celebration, and eaten. I really want to thank all of the folks that made pies. We needed 20 and got 19, close enough. Thank you folks for the great homemade desserts. I still am looking for Century Farms. I again ask that each Subordinate Grange across the State report to me the farms that are 100 or more years old, in the same family and on the same land in your Grange's Town and also the surrounding towns. Send the information to:

Bob Haefner
1 St. John St.
Hudson, NH 03051
889-1553
bobhaefnerjp@comcast.net

I continue to be active as the Grange Representative on the Farm Bureau Government Affairs Committee. I talked to a Vice President at AT&T about our extending broadband in rural NH. He told me about the 450 4G towers that they are building across NH, some replacing older 3G and many new towers to carry broadband. I also wrote a letter as your Legislative and Agriculture Director to the FDA in opposition to the new FSMA rules that will be a blow to our small farmers in NH.

We had a good State Session again in October, with twelve resolutions deliberated. Four passed, two were amended and passed, and six failed. Four of the six that were passed or passed and amended were sent on to National Grange. One was rejected by the National Grange, one sent back as a state issue and two were accepted.

The National Grange Annual Meeting in NH for the first time in 100 years by any measure was a great success. Congratulations to Beth and her team. We did get our US Junior Senator to session to speak. I understand it had been at least ten years if not longer, since a Senator did speak at the convention. The all local food Salute to Agriculture Breakfast was a success with National making a profit on the meal and still we got the more expensive breakfast at a cost less than the cheaper breakfast. Steve Taylor spoke, and the Delegates loved him.

A group of 386 candidates took the 7th degree. What a great statement that is. To top it all off Our State Master was elected National Lecturer. Congrats, Jim. While the National Grange was here, The National Grange Legislative Director, Grace Boatright had an Op Ed published in the Concord Monitor. It was by far one of the best attended National Session in years. I believe the Idea Fair was a success as well.

I gave this year's Legislator award to Representative Guy Comtois from Center Barnstead for his efforts in getting farm friendly legislation passed. That was given at the awards banquet. I traveled to Dalton to give the Century Farm award to Forbes Dairy of Lancaster. I will be presenting the Young Farmer award to Piccadilly Farm in Winchester at Arlington Grange at their next meeting.