

# Home Grown Politics Across New Hampshire Farmland to Concord and Washington

This, my third GSG column, as your Legislative and Agriculture Director, has been a slow period. We have not had a big project during the last three months, but have not been still either. We are currently preparing for State Session, by selecting award recipients for both Legislators and the various farm awards.

We are currently busy updating the NH State Grange Legislative Policy Book. Some Resolutions may or may not come out of it. The book was last updated in 2009. We are reviewing every policy in the book. I sit on the NH Farm Bureau's Government Affairs Committee, as the Grange Representative. We were asked to submit the Grange Priorities for the coming year for consideration in the Farm Bureau's policy book. Just a few of the priorities we submitted are:

We are strongly opposed to any attempt to eliminate or consolidate the NH Department of Agriculture.

We support and promote "Buy Local."

We support Farm to School and Farm to Restaurant programs.

We strongly support State Meat Inspection.

We support extending broadband to rural areas.

We oppose the elimination of Cooperative Extension.

We care that our dairy farmers are profitable.

We are always concerned about Federal Legislation that is one size fits all, and that any federal legislation protects our small farmers in New Hampshire.

Finally, we encourage all of our farms, including organic and non-organic, to work together. There is room for all of us, and no method is better or worse than the other - just different.

I just came back from the Council of State Governments annual meeting in Halifax. It is not a Grange Event, but for Legislators. We did a lot of good work in the agriculture legislative area and produced three resolutions that are good for NH Agriculture. In the next year I expect to turn some of that into NH Legislation.

Finally, I have a challenge to our subordinate Granges and Pomona. What can you do to promote NH Agriculture, your local farmers and Farmers' Markets, and the whole buy local idea?