

Home Grown Politics Across NH Farmland to Concord and Washington

For those that were not at State Session in Hampton Beach, Sister Tara Sad and I did a workshop on Animal Rights Groups. (“Sister Tara,” wasn’t she in a Clint Eastwood movie?) Our workshop talked about the fundraising efforts of HSUS and how little money that they raise actually goes to help animals, about 1%. We talked about the real agenda of HSUS and other like groups, which is the elimination of animal agriculture and pet ownership.

The Legislative and Agriculture Department presented Rep. Derek Owen of Hopkinton this year’s legislative award. Derek has been a member of the House for twenty years and has been a member of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture for the full twenty years. Derek is best known for two things: His hat that proudly states “Farm from here to Eternity,” and his perennial Hemp bill. Derek has been a valuable member of the Committee, and we wish him well as he retires from the legislature at 80 years of age.

The Award to Derek was the one award presented at the Awards Banquet, but not the last to be awarded. We had three agriculture awards that were delivered at local Granges, because the recipients could not attend the Banquet. They are:

“200 Year Farm”

McQuesten Farm in Litchfield

This award was delivered at Hudson Grange. McQuesten Farm has been in the same family, in the same location since 1744.

“Century Farm”

Fletchers Dairy in Walpole

Delivered at Walpole Grange

“Young Farmer Award”

Tracie Smith of Tracie’s Community Farm in Fitzwilliam

Delivered at Peterborough Grange

The Legislative and Agriculture team will meet at Deputy School in early December to plan our year. One of our goals for this year is to update our policy book, I have fallen behind in doing that, and this is the year we catch up.

Tentatively we plan on another Grangers in Public Office panel again at Spring Fling in April. We are going to plan a Grange Day at the State House and see if we can't actually get a Governor to show up. The last thing we will spend time on is the Legislative Fly In during May in Washington. I would love to get some new folks to attend. The Fly In is a great experience.

Let me make a pitch again to get Grangers to the Big E for Grange Day at the Big E. Please come and Stay to march in the Parade at 4:00. You have plenty of time to schedule it for September. West Springfield is not that long a ride and it is a fun day. I would like to see two Grangers from each Grange in the Parade, a few of them carrying the NH State Grange Banner. Two per Grange would be 152 marchers. We had five this year and four of those were from the same Grange. My Challenge to each Subordinate: get two folks to go on Grange Day. Wouldn't it be fun to see the faces on the Connecticut and Rhode Island marchers, when they finally get out numbered?

The election is over. It is now safe to answer your phone and open your mail. Whether your candidate won or lost, we had the biggest turn out in history for most polling places and registered many new voters. The registered voters increased by about 10%. Let's see how many come out to town elections in March: 80% or 15%?

Don't forget to email or call your State Reps and talk to them about the importance of Agriculture to our NH Economy and culture.