

Home Grown Politics Across NH Farmland to Concord and Washington

I hope you all are thinking about resolutions for our state session. They are due about September first. Please think about legislation that you would like to see pursued at both the state and federal level. Remember, it was Grange resolutions that were the push needed to start the NH State Police and at the federal level the creation of Rural Free Delivery.

I would ask Subordinate Granges to write letters to the House Environment and Agriculture Committee in Support of HB 110, which was retained in Committee and will be worked on in August. The Wording of HB 110 is:

“If you witness cruelty to livestock, or poultry, you have a duty to report it to law enforcement with Jurisdiction within 48 hours. If you have evidence of the crime of cruelty, you have the same duty to report that you have the evidence to the same law enforcement authority at the same time. If the evidence is a photo or video you must keep an unedited copy for 60 days.”

The State Grange and the National Grange have endorsed the cruelty bill with written letters to the committee. Your State Grange also opposed SB 159 which would have eliminated the use of gestation crates. Our State Master and I wrote letters and made phone calls to the Governor’s Council to support the re-nomination of Lorraine Merrill for Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture Markets and Food.

I am not able to go to the Legislative Fly-In this year. I am disappointed, but the State Master will be there to capably represent New Hampshire. I again encourage folks to make the trip to DC for the Fly-In some time. It is a great experience that you will never forget. I cannot go because that same week I will be flying to Vancouver for the annual meeting of State Agriculture and Rural Leaders. Tara Sad from the Legislative Department and the current Chair of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee will be at the annual meeting in British Columbia as well.

I would love to hear from folks about their gardens. I have mine planted with mostly herbs, also a variety of hot peppers and onions and even a few strawberries. I just love going out with scissors while I am cooking to cut some herbs for the meal.

I continue to be the Grange Representative to the NH Farm Bureau’s Government Affairs Committee and their Policy Committee. We need to do more to bring the Farm Bureau, The NH State Grange and other agriculture organizations closer together and working for the same causes.

That reminds me to ask you all to get out this year and buy CSA shares, visit your local farmers’ market and local farm stands. Start planning now to go to the Big E this year for Grange Day on September 22, and stay to march in the parade. I would really like to see at least two folks from each Subordinate Grange in New Hampshire marching that day. Bring a sash and help us celebrate Grange Day at the fair.

Enjoy the summer.