

# New Hampshire State Grange



Agriculture Department

2020

Grange- An old English term for a farm, an American Fraternal Organization based in agriculture.

A plant with no roots bears no fruit.

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**M**ission: To help grow interest in agriculture in the New Hampshire Granges. Also to act as a liaison between the NH State Agriculture Department and the Grange.

**C**ommittee members

Director Norman Brandt

Les Avery, Adam Terrell, Scott Burns

Programs available through the Ag Department:

Goats

Chickens

Fish

Gardening

Integrated Pest Management

Aquaponics

Showing Animals

Rabbits

Horses

Carnivorous plants

Artificial Insemination

Ask and we can try to find someone for you.

# Farmers Helping Guide

This past year has demonstrated to me that the Grange has really become to distant from our Agriculture roots. When I had problems come up, I could not find the help I needed from Grange and under advice of the past Grange Ag director I found the help I needed from the Farm Bureau. Below are some of the lesson I learned please share it with Grange members that have livestock to help them if they find they run into the same problems.

## Definition of Agriculture

As further provided in RSA 21:34-a, the words “agriculture” and “farming” mean all operations of a farm, including: (1) the cultivation, conservation, and tillage of the soil; (2) the storage, use, and spreading fertilizer; (3) the use of agricultural chemicals; (4) raising and sale of livestock; (5) breeding, boarding, raising, training, riding instruction, and selling of equines; (6) commercial raising, harvesting, and sale of fresh water fish or other aquaculture products; (7) raising, breeding, or sale of poultry or game birds; (8) raising bees; (9) raising and breeding of domesticated strains of fur-bearing animals; (10) production of greenhouse crops; (11) production, cultivation, growing, harvesting, and sale of any agricultural, floricultural, viticultural, forestry, or horticultural crops and any practice on the farm incident to, or in conjunction with, such farming operations.

## Are there any protections for Agriculture in NH?

Under RSA 432:33, no agricultural operation can be found to be nuisance as a result of changed conditions in or around the locality of the agricultural operation, if such agricultural operation has been in operation for one year or more and if it was not a nuisance at the time it began operation. This does not exempt farms from public health and applicable environmental regulations.

## Any protection for expanding your farm?

RSA 674:32-b creates special protections for existing agricultural uses to expand or change to any other agricultural use, so long as they comply with the

commissioner of agriculture's best management practices. Under ordinary zoning principles, nonconforming uses and most permitted uses do not enjoy such latitude. An important limitation is that establishment, re-establishment or significant expansion of an operation involving livestock, poultry, or other animals or a retail farm stand may be made subject to a special exception or other land use board approval.

## Land in Use Taxation policy

Any open space devoted to farm purposes having 10 acres or more is entitled to current use taxation under RSA Chapter 79-A. On the other hand, a tract of land of any size devoted to the growing of agricultural or horticultural crops with an annual gross income from the sale of those crops totaling \$2,500 is also entitled to current use taxation treatment. NH Admin Code Cub 304.01.

Sadly farms are now under attack by groups that do not want animals being kept for any reason! Including but not limited to the HSUS, PETA, ASPCA. With recent wins in courts they are going after more Agricultural businesses to push their agenda. Their favorite method of doing this is thru your local police or SPCA getting them to file a complaint against your farm.

There are some groups that if you're a member they will help you.

The NH Farm Bureau

The Calvary Group

Hopefully the NH State Grange

An SPCA investigator is here what to do?

Remember the NH State law states: ((b) For purposes of subparagraph (a)

the investigating officer for livestock, as defined in RSA 427:38, III, shall be accompanied by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B or the state veterinarian who shall set the probable cause criteria for taking the animal or animals.) It is my experience, and the findings of my research the investigator will normally show up without the Veterinarian that the law states they must have. Do not let them onto your property and call the State Vets office ASAP (best if while the investigator is present) to get advice. This will prompt the investigator to call the local police who will most likely (Illegally) advise you to allow them onto the property to inspect. Unless the State Vet advises you to do so, DO NOT. They have no legal right to enter your property without a warrant.

## Now what to do?

If you are a member of any of the organizations that are listed contact someone and ask for help. Even if the SPCA or Police leave, do it. I know for me the Farm Bureau policy person was nice enough to come down and do a walk thru with me and give me ideas of what he thought the State Vets Office might want to see. Some of which they didn't really care about but some were very helpful, such as Liming your pens to help with odors.

Have as many people come in and give you suggestions and try to get what they suggest done. In the end if the SPCA and the State Vets office does come to do an investigation be sure to be respectful to the State Vets office and do anything they suggest within the time frame they give you.

<https://www.nhmunicipal.org/TownAndCity/Article/612>

<https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/laws-rules/index.htm>

# Award Criteria

## New Farmer

This can be presented to any person(s) starting a farm. They must be open to a farm inspection before receiving it, and should be inspected for proper farming techniques, and if animals are used, no signs of animal abuse can be accepted.

## 50 year Farm

Given to any Farm that has been in continual use for 50 or more years. The farm does not need to be farming the same stuff for all 50 years, ie if farming beef and now farm Hay they are still able to be presented the award. Priority will be given to any farm that is owned by the same family for all 50.

## 100 year Farm

Given to any Farm that has been in continual use for 100 years or more. The rest is the same as the 50 year Farm.

## Friend of Agriculture

Given to an Organization or Person that has proven to work tirelessly to support and help Agriculture in New Hampshire.

## Young Farmer

A person younger than 35 years of age actively doing Farming of any kind.

## Fair Exhibitor

Given to a child or adult that has shown great knowledge of Agriculture, Organizations that are related to Agriculture (Does not need to know about Grange)









