

## From Your Assistant Commissioner



### 2025 Farm Forest & Garden Expo

The New Hampshire Farm, Forest and Garden Expo returns for its 42<sup>nd</sup> year this Friday and Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Deerfield Fairgrounds. As a founding sponsor, along with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and the NH Division of Forest & Lands, the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food looks forward to this opportunity each year to interact with our stakeholders and share with Expo guests a little about what we do. In addition to saying hello to department staff (who will be located in the 'Arts and Crafts Building'), there is a full lineup of exhibitors, workshops, and events to keep you educated and entertained over the two-day event.

The Dark Horse Lumberjack Show will bring some top-notch chopping and sawing skills to the Expo on Friday from noon till 5:00 PM. You can find it outside the smaller sheep & wool building near Gate E...or just look for the flying sawdust!

The Agriculture Career Exploration Event is something new for 2025. From 5:00 – 6:00 PM on Friday, in the larger sheep & wool building, attendees can meet and hear from industry experts, state agency staff, and UNH staff to discuss career paths in agriculture, farming, forestry, gardening, and conservation. While this event is aimed at students and new or beginning farmers, all are welcome. Whether you want to meet potential hires or explore a new vocation, you won't want to miss this.

As always, a bevy of workshops covering useful and practical topics like chainsaw safety, multi-species livestock management, soil fertility, homesteading and much more will be taking place throughout both days of the Expo. You can find further details about each workshop and the full schedule at [www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org/events](http://www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org/events).

There will be plenty of options to refuel yourself after walking the fairgrounds exploring all the Expo has to offer. Food trucks and stalls with selections for breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dessert can be found between the flagpole and the Arts and Crafts Building. I'll be keeping my fingers crossed for favorable weather like we've had the past two years, but the event will be held rain or shine. I look forward to seeing you there!

**Josh Marshall, Assistant Commissioner**