

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE'S AWARD FOR AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

The NH Agricultural Excellence Award is presented annually to exhibitors participating in NH fairs. Awards recognize exhibits which promote a better understanding of agriculture and rural life and may be given to individuals, farms, businesses or organizations. The Commissioner of Agriculture appoints the judges panel and establishes the judging criteria.

The following fairs have announced their 2016 winners (in chronological order):

Stratham Fair

Alex Marcoux

Agriculture Beyond Soil – Hydroponics & Aquaponics

Judges notes:

As houses continue to grow on productive farmland, alternative agriculture can be a viable way of producing food in NH. Soilless agriculture has captured an interest in food producers, but there is still a need to educate people on how this method of production works. It is evident that Alex has spent a lot of time & put a lot of thought into this exhibit. His visual examples are very captivating & enhance this educational aspect of this exhibit.



No. Haverhill Fair

Ed Blaisdell Maple Museum

Judge's Notes:

Excellent display of historical equipment used in NH's maple industry. It takes a lot of time and work to make maple syrup, which is one of our state's major agricultural commodities. The museum does an excellent job of showing how the process of making syrup has progressed through the years.



Cheshire Fair

Nolan Reilly

The Carbon Cycle

Judge's notes:

Creative & colorful display of the carbon cycle. It shows how carbon is recycled as it moves from one step of the carbon cycle to the next and how humans can lessen their impact on the cycle to lessen the current imbalance of the carbon cycle.



Belknap County Fair

Swain Family

"The Four Seasons of 4H"

Judge's notes:

This exhibit is a great collection of the traditions and rural activities most common in our state. The display which includes maple sugaring, trapping, gardening, hunting, food preservation, fishing and firewood is very well put together and gives the viewer a feel for the character of NH.



Cornish Fair

Elizabeth Bliss / Blissful Farm

Romney Sheep poster

Judge's Notes:

This is a nice exhibit of Romney sheep featuring an accompanying poster stating facts of the Romney breed. Information included the history of the breed along with its future. The poster was well organized and neat. Pictures of lambs, sheep and Elizabeth accented the information.



Lancaster Fair

Flint Family Farm

The exhibit was clean and eye catching. The cows were well groomed and the setup was immaculate. A display provided some farm history, dairy industry facts, and explanations of cow breeds. Over all the exhibit shows a pride of ownership that is representative of dairy owners in New Hampshire



Hillsborough County Ag Fair

The Noonan Family/ Middle Branch Farm

Vegetable Display

Judges notes:

Colorful, bountiful display of NH grown vegetables. Despite the extremely dry season, Middle Branch Farm has successfully produced high quality vegetables. This is a great example of the types of crops available in NH.



Hopkinton State Fair

Highland Riders 4-H & Cloverbuds

Fun in the Garden

Judges notes: This exhibit shows a typical summer bounty of vegetables that NH youth have helped grow. The pictures show children participating in many aspects of agriculture, including spreading manure, planting, mulching, & harvesting. The club members show further interest in sharing their bounty with the local food pantry. Great display of teamwork & sharing with the local community.



Rochester Fair

Rochester Farmer's Market

Judges notes:

Nice display of local products that can be round in NH and the market. Display consists of summer & fall crops that are typical of NH. Included mums, pumpkins, apples, root crops & maple syrup. Customer attendance at farmer's markets helps support the viability of NH farms.



Deerfield Fair

Downs Farm Dairy

Judge's notes:

The display is clean, attractive and visually striking. A poster display about dairy farming and nutrition is excellent for every audience. The comic book graphics catch the eye and the text is brief enough to encourage reading, but thorough enough that the reader gets insight into everything from milk production to food safety. Excellent display.



Sandwich Fair

Picnic Rock Farms, LLC

Judge's notes:

Colorful & bountiful display of vegetables & value added products! Display includes vegetables, dried beans, herbs & flowers.

