Upcoming Event with the Governor

On Friday, March 12th at 9 am, Governor Sununu will be at the Connolly Brothers Dairy Farm, located at 140 Webster Highway in Temple, for a dual event. To kick off the 75th anniversary of Soil Conservation Districts in NH, the Governor will be presenting the State Soil Conservation Committee with a proclamation. He will also be highlighting maple sugaring season by tapping a maple tree. The Governor has been a great supporter of agriculture, and it is always a great event whenever he joins the department for an event on a farm.

Christopher, Michael, and Patrick Connolly purchased their parents dairy farm in 1996. It is hard to believe that it has been 25 years. Both Chris and Mike joined Alpha Gamma Rho, while they were at UNH, so I have known them for even longer. Time really does fly by. The brothers have done a great job with the farm in no small part through diversification. They currently produce and sell from their farm store; milk, meat, maple syrup, and ice cream.

Chris is the chairman of the Hillsborough County Soil Conservation District. Since the farm has benefited from several conservation grants, that fact makes the farm the ideal location for the Governor to issue his proclamation. It's good to see that not only have the Connolly's benefited from the program, they are also giving back to the district. In 2012, the brothers added maple sugaring to their operation, so adding the tapping of a tree to highlight that important NH industry, will make for an ideal event.

Last year Maple Weekend was canceled just as the state was entering into a COVID-19 lockdown. A year ago, the idea that we would end up cancelling all of our fairs and so many other events was really beyond my imagination, I couldn't believe that we wouldn't have it all under control by September. Here we are a year later, and there will be no Maple Weekend this year either. Maple producers will be open for business this year, they just won't be encouraging everyone to come at once.

The event at the Connolly Farm will be open to the public, but we do ask that everyone wear a mask and keep six feet away from those they didn't come with. There will be plenty of room to spread out, and the farm store will be open for business, as it is every day. The State, with Governor Sununu’s leadership, is moving in the right direction. Let's keep the momentum going.

Shawn N. Jasper – Commissioner