

Weekly Market Bulletin

State of New Hampshire
Chris Sununu
Governor

Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Shawn N. Jasper
Commissioner

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From Your Commissioner

NASDA

I should be in North Dakota right now, for the Annual Meeting of the National Association of States Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Instead, for the next four days, I will come into the office in the morning, and then head home for afternoon ZOOM sessions. Why do I have to go home you might ask? I need to go home because I don't have a camera or a microphone on my work monitor, but I do have those things at home. The monitor I have at work is brand new, I just got it in March. Common sense would dictate that even if my monitor had been purchased prior to the pandemic, that a Commissioner should have the capability to participate in a Zoom meeting, as they were already becoming more common.

Meeting via Zoom or Web Ex or any similar technology can be a real time saver, especially if the meetings are short, and if the participants are spread out over a large geographic area. They are much better than conference calls in many ways, but I hope that they never take the place of face to face meetings. We really can't get to know each other over the internet. Getting to know each other is really what makes it all work, no matter what organization.

As part of every NASDA meeting, two other organizations also meet, and the same will be true during this Zoom meeting. Food Export Northeast is part of a group of similar organizations representing each part of the country. It is funded largely by the Federal Government, but also receives revenue from participating corporations and individual states. The primary purpose of the organization, is to promote food products produced in the Northeast, to buyers all over the world. The organization participates in trade missions and has had great success in expanding sales of Northeast products. Nine NH companies are participants in the program.

A sub-set of NASDA is the Northeast States Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA); each region of the country has a similar organization. This allows the Commissioners, Secretaries, and the Chiefs of each department to get together more often and easily to focus on issues which affect our regions. This past June, we were supposed to get together in Vermont for our annual meeting, but COVID19 also put an end to those plans. Instead, we had a brief Zoom meeting. Currently, I am serving as the Secretary of NEASDA; I can't tell you how much I love doing minutes. As I currently planned, I will be moving up to fill the position of Vice-President and then next year, I will serve as President. If that does happen, NH will be hosting the annual NEASDA meeting in 2022. The last time that NEASDA was in NH was in 2012, when the event was held in Whitefield at the Mountain View Grand Hotel, so I am going to have a lot to live up to then.

As a brief follow-up to last week's column, I can tell you that, while the woodchucks did not burrow directly under the post, they did trench around it enough to lead to the post sinking. We dug

down about three feet below where the rock was sitting and poured a concrete footing 8 inches thick and 3 feet square. Even if those darn varmints get close to it, there won't be any settling, even if the barn makes it another 90 years.

On Friday of this week, I will be joining the Governor for apple picking at Brookdale Fruit Farm in Hollis, at 9 a.m. From there we will be traveling to Plainfield, for more apple picking at Riverview Farm at 1:30. We would love to see you at one of these locations.

Shawn N. Jasper – Commissioner