

Immediate Release

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**Annual NH Farm & Forest Expo a Success
*Award Winners Recognized at Annual Ceremony***

The 36th annual NH Farm & Forest Exposition wrapped up a successful fair last weekend with one of the largest crowds in many years. The event featured a busy trade show showcasing the latest in agricultural and forest technology and information, as well as dozens of educational sessions and demonstrations with something for everyone, from the hobbyist to the professional.

The annual industry awards reception, held on Feb. 1st, recognized individuals and businesses for outstanding contributions to their industry. The winners are as follows:

NH Farms of Distinction is a program of the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food that annually recognizes those New Hampshire Farms that go the extra mile to keep their busy farmsteads neat and attractive, thereby portraying a positive image for New Hampshire agriculture. The 2019 winners are:

The Farm at Woods Hill in Bath, NH was founded in 2013 by owner by Kristin Canty to supply her two restaurants in Concord, MA and soon, a third restaurant in Boston. The original farm was established by the Woods Family in 1794. The 265 acre farm produces a variety of livestock including beef cows, pigs, sheep and chickens. The production emphasis is grass-fed and free-range. They also grow blueberries, apples, pumpkins and assorted vegetables, as well as honey and mushrooms. An on-site farm crew, led by manager, Amber Reed oversees the property, animals and crops. The scenic farm also offers guest accommodations in **The Lodge** on site. Visitors are welcome for short or long term stays

Stone Farm in Cornish Flat is owned and operated by Charles Stone. Charles purchased the inactive farm in the early 1980s and rebuilt it for a livestock operation. The farm

consists of approximately 90 acres and an additional 250 acres of rented land for producing corn silage and hay, and pasture for over 100 head of Black Angus cattle. The silage and hay is sold to other local farms as well as used for the livestock on the premises. In addition to the beef animals, Charles maintains a small flock of sheep, turkeys, and laying hens. A complex of modern barns has been designed and situated for weather protection and good natural lighting for efficient animal management. The farm and its cropland provide a scenic vista enjoyed from across the valley.

New Hampshire Green Pastures Dairy Farmer of the Year award is presented annually to an outstanding NH dairy farmer. A similar award is presented in each New England state as part of the New England Green Pastures program which honors dairy farmers for management and contribution to the agricultural community. The program started from a challenge posed by former governor of New Hampshire, Charles Dale, who dared the other New England states to produce better pastures. All New England winners are honored each year in September at the Eastern States Exposition in W. Springfield, MA. The NH winner is recognized every year at the Farm & Forest Expo.

The 2018 NH Green pastures winner was the LeClair Family of LeClair acres in Claremont. This dairy is owned and operated by Gary and Jean LeClair along with their sons Jason and Tim and families.

Andrew L. Felker Memorial Award is presented by the NH Farm & Forest Expo for significant contributions to the health and vitality of New Hampshire agriculture. The award is named after New Hampshire's first Commissioner of Agriculture. This year's award went to Lockwood "Pooh" Sprague of Plainfield. Pooh owns Edgewater Farm with his wife Ann where they raise vegetables, berries and ornamentals. Pooh has been a supporter of research and education and has hosted various research projects on his farm over the decades. He has been among the first in NH to utilize new practices for better crop production. Pooh is generous with his time and knowledge and has gotten many people started in farming. When other farmers have issues, Pooh is their "go to" for advice.

Fred E. Beane Memorial Award is given by the NH Farm & Forest Expo for fair, accurate and effective reporting of news and issues impacting farming and forestry in the state. The award is named for long time New Hampshire rural life reporter, Fred Beane. The 2019 award was presented to Josh Marshall of Boscawen. Josh is the Communications Director for the NH Farm Bureau Federation, a position he has held since 2015. Prior to this he worked for NFL Films and was involved with filming and archiving of NFL and Super Bowl football games. Josh is responsible for all aspects of the production of the bi-monthly Farm Bureau member newsletter "The Communicator". He also serves as staff photographer, videographer and drone operator! He has been recognized by the national Farm Bureau for his communications work.

The Stephen H. Taylor Agricultural Leadership Award recognizes outstanding work by an individual who works professionally in the field of agriculture. The 2019 award was given to Stacy Luke of Ashland. Stacy is the Manager of the Merrimack County Conservation District. In this role she assists farmers with implementation of conservation practices such as erosion control, establishing cover crops and fencing. She has had great success with grant writing and has shared those skills with local farmers and conservation colleagues.

NH Tree Farmer of the Year, presented by the NH Tree Farm Committee, is given to a landowner who has shown exceptional forest management in the Tree Farm Program. This year's winner was the Town of Gilford and their Kimball Wildlife Forest. The property is managed as a habitat demonstration forest along with partners UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Fish and Game and is open to the public to enjoy.

For more information about the NH Farm & Forest Expo, visit www.nhfarmadforestexpo.org.