




NEW HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURE TIMELINE

Key Happenings in New Hampshire Agricultural History from 1800-2013

- 1821 - NH State Board of Agriculture formed
- 1866 - NH College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts established in Hanover; moved to Durham in 1893
- 1873 - First NH Grange formed in Exeter
- 1913 - State Board of Agriculture abolished; Dept of Agriculture established by act of legislature, permanently organized in 1914
- 1914 - Andrew L. Felker begins term as first Commissioner of Agriculture and serves for a record 40 years until his death in 1946
- 1914 - UNH Cooperative Extension formalized as part of national Extension system by Smith Lever Act
- 1916 - NH Farm Bureau established
- 1917 - During World War I, the NH Dept. of Agriculture and other state and federal agencies urged farmers to produce firewood for urban areas because of a shortage of coal for heating
- 1918 - Testing for Pullorum Disease in poultry using a process developed by the University of New Hampshire leading to the eradication of Pullorum Disease in NH.
- 1919 - First *Weekly Market Bulletin* published
- 1920 - NH State Veterinarian Dr. Robinson Smith begins a crusade against the diseases of Tuberculosis and Brucellosis in cattle
- 1923 - NH College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts becomes University of New Hampshire
- 1930-50 - New Hampshire leads the world in poultry production. NH poultry breeders focus on selecting for vigor, rapid growth which results in the development of the "New Hampshire" breed of chicken, a meatier bird that also produced eggs. Soon producers in other parts of the country and the world sought these birds and NH growers shifted to producing the chicks and hatching the eggs for these other producers. Genetics from NH producers have influenced the world's poultry production.
- 1931 - Future Farmers of America (FFA) chartered in New Hampshire
- 1933 - Federal Agricultural Adjustment Agency established (becomes Farm Service Agency in 1994)
- 1935 - "New Hampshire" breed of chicken is recognized as an official breed by the American Poultry Association.
- 1935 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) established - formerly Soil Conservation Service
- 1938 - The "Great New England Hurricane" with high winds that uprooted trees including thousands of sugar maples and apple trees. Farms and farmland land were flooded resulting in the loss of crops and livestock, buildings and equipment. Homes and buildings were destroyed. Hundreds were killed across the region—12 in NH. Damage costs are \$40 billion by today's standards
- 1947- NH Agriculture Commissioner, Perley I. Fitts, appointed to first term by Governor Charles Dale
- 1948 - First Green pastures competition to encourage pasture and cropland improvement among dairy farmers. Begun with a challenge from the NH Governor, Charles Dale, to the other New England Governors to produce pasture in their state that was greener and better than pasture in New Hampshire. He said he would buy a hat for the governor who would do so. The program continues to this day, recognizing outstanding dairy farmers.
- 1952 - The NH Dept. of Weights and measures becomes a bureau within the NH Dept. of Agriculture with a staff of seven inspectors

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- **1960 - NH is the first state in the US to become Brucellosis free**
 - **1962 - NH Agriculture Commissioner Frank T. Buckley appointed** to first term by Governor Wesley Powell
 - **1962-72 - Commissioner Frank Buckley restructured the NH Dept. of Agriculture** creating the Division of Animal Industry and the Division of Insect and Plant Disease Control (which would become the Division of Plant Industry under Commissioner Steve Taylor)
 - **1964 - NH is the first state in the US to become tuberculosis free**
 - **1972 -NH Agriculture Commissioner, Howard C. Townsend appointed** to first term by Governor Walter R. Peterson, Jr.
 - **1972 -December 6th - First *Weekly Market Bulletin* Commissioner's Column**, by Commissioner, Howard Townsend
 - **1973 - NH Current Use Law enacted**
 - **1973 - NH Division of Pesticide Control established**
 - **1974 - The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is established** at the University of New Hampshire
 - **1982 - NH Commissioner Stephen H. Taylor appointed** to first term by Governor Hugh Gallen
 - **1984 - First annual NH Farm & Forest Exposition** held in Manchester
 - **1987 - NH Division of Agricultural Development established**
 - **1989 -First statewide collection and disposal of unwanted pesticides** administered by the NH Division of Pesticide Control
 - **1990 - Acreage in agriculture down by 85% from about 1900** (3,250,000 to 480,000). Forest land increased by 22% to 87% forested.
 - **1991 - Establishment of the NH Groundwater Protection and the NH Endangered Species Protection Programs**
 - **1993 - Holstein cow, Tullando Maxima from Tullando Farm in Orford, earns the title "World's most productive cow"** with just under 60,000 pounds of milk produced that year.
 - **1995 - Department of Agriculture becomes Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food** under Commissioner, Steve Taylor
 - **1998 - NH Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory committee established** by act of the legislature with Commissioner of Agriculture as a member.
 - **2001 - Pesticide Applicator Training Program established**
 - **2002- NH ranked first in the nation for percentage of women principal farm operators**
 - **2007- NH ranked first in the nation for percent of farm direct to consumer sales**
 - **2007 - 24% increase in farm numbers from 2002 Census**
 - **2007 - Enabling legislation approved to allow the formation of town agricultural commissions**
 - **2013-14-Celebration of the first 100 years of the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets Food**

New Hampshire
*Department of Agriculture,
 Markets & Food*

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