



2011 Annual Meeting

November 4 - Pats Peak, Henniker, NH



2011 Profile Award winner Laura Gund and NH Farm Bureau President Jeff Holmes

Profile Recipient Announced

New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation (NHFBF) honored Laura Gund of Lee with the Profile Award for outstanding service to New Hampshire agriculture and rural life. The 70th consecutive Profile Award was presented at the NHFBF annual meeting banquet on November 4 at Pats Peak in Henniker.

Laura has an extraordinary background not only in agriculture but within her community. Laura was instrumental in bringing about the School-to-Farm Day at the University of New Hampshire, twenty five years ago through her involvement with Strafford County Farm Bureau and Ag-in-the-Classroom. Over 1,000 school children attend this event annually and Laura has yet to miss one.

Laura's passion for educating young people about agriculture didn't stop with her School to Farm Day work or her involvement with 4-H or FFA. For years she has and still does, welcome schools, daycares and even orphanages to her farm. Entire bus loads of kids come and spend the day picking apples, visiting the animals and learning how cows are milked and just simply explore country life.

In addition to Laura's passion for teaching people about agriculture, she is extensively involved in preserving farmland through her role on the Lee Conservation Commission and Lee Agricultural Commission. She also feels strongly about preserving the heritage of the town of Lee and has been involved in preserving numerous historic properties.

Laura joined Strafford County Farm Bureau in October 1981 and became a board member soon afterward. She has served on multiple Farm Bureau committees, including policy development, publicity and information. Laura served as Strafford County Farm Bureau President from 1986 to 1989. During her presidency she also served on state committees.

Laura has had a major impact to New Hampshire agriculture. The Profile Award is Farm Bureau's way of acknowledging and honoring her contributions.

New England Discussion Meet



This year the New England Collegiate Discussion Meet was held prior to the New Hampshire state competition on November 4. Five college students, three from Massachusetts and two from New Hampshire participated in the competition.

In the photo above (left to right) Chris Grant, Jessica Hood and Adam Fry discuss the following question: "Have farmers and ranchers effectively utilized social media to educate and influence the public? What strategies can be implemented to expand the interaction between producers and consumers?"

Chris Grant of Essex, MA won the competition and was presented a check for \$250 from Kimberly O'Brien with Monsanto.



Special Thanks

For years Dodge has sponsored the Young Farmer awards by providing \$500 for each winner of the Achievement Award, Excellence in Agriculture and state Discussion Meet. Since Dodge is no longer affiliated with Farm Bureau there were no funds for the winners. However, Farm Bureau supporters came to the rescue and provided funding for our Young Farmer award winners. Special thanks to the following organizations: Echo Farm, Farm Credit East, Townline Equipment, and NEEBCo.

New Hampshire Discussion Meet

Young Farmer Committee Vice-Chair and Discussion Meet

Moderator Theo Mongeau congratulates Valerie Allen of Webster on winning the 2011 NH Young Farmer Discussion Meet. The competition was held in conjunction with the NHFBF annual meeting. Valerie not only won the competition but and expense paid trip to compete nationally at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii this January courtesy of the NHFBF.

This year the questions for the state Discussion Meet were as follows:

1. How can we convince the public that the animal agriculture industry balances production efficiencies with the public's expectations of animal care
2. What role, if any, should agriculture play in addressing health and obesity issues?

In the photo below, Amanda Ferdinando (left) of Derry presents her point of view during the Discussion Meet while Jonathan Cate of Concord listens.



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Achievement Award Winners

Young Farmers Keith and Elizabeth Kimball of Alstead accept a farm sign for winning the 2011 Achievement Award from Rep. Suzanne Smith of Hebron. Keith and Elizabeth operate a 570 milking cow and 500 young stock herd. Along with milking they crop over 850 acres of corn silage and haylage. Keith has been a Farm Bureau member since 2003 and was on the Sullivan County Farm Bureau board of directors from 2004-2007. This past June the young couple celebrated the arrival of their first child, Owen.

The Kimballs receive an expense paid trip to Honolulu, Hawaii where they will be competing nationally at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting this January. The couple will also take delivery of a Kubota tractor from Pinnacleview Equipment next spring.



Silva Triumphs with Excellence

Lynn Silva of Epping won the 2011 NH Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award. Lynn received her award from Rep. Charles Townsend.

Lynn works at a saddle shop in Hampton and has recently taken on the challenge of farming. She has leased an equine facility in Epping where she will be boarding horses and teaching riding lessons. The Excellence in Agriculture Award is to acknowledge Young Farmers between the ages of 18 to 35 who do not derive the majority of their income from production agriculture.

Lynn will represent New Hampshire at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting this January. As part of Lynn's winnings, she will receive a trip to Honolulu, Hawaii courtesy of the NH Farm Bureau to compete nationally.



2009-2011 Young Farmer Chair Lynn Silva (left) with Jill Dumont, the current Chair.

Young Farmer Chair Acknowledged

Jill Dumont was nominated and voted in as the new Young Farmer Chair on October 20. She has been actively involved in the Young Farmer program for years and has been a Farm Bureau member since 2004. During the NHFBF annual meeting Jill presented a gift basket to Lynn Silva, the 2009-2011 Young Farmer Chair for all of her hard work and effort.

Jill is looking forward to serving as the Young Farmer Chair. The position is a two year term; Jill will be Chair until November 2013.

Rockingham Delivers

As a community service project the NH Young Farmers asked fellow Farm Bureau members earlier in the year to produce a bit extra for local food pantries for their Harvest-For-All program. Project Coordinator, Erin Marlowe collaborated with the Community Action Program and provided dates and locations when farm fresh produce could be dropped off across the state. Each county was assigned a Young Farmer in charge of the project in their area.

Debbie Boyd (Stepp) from Cheshire County raised a pig with feed donated by Poulin Grain. The processing cost was paid for by the NH Pork Producers Council and was donated to the NH Food Bank Chef in Training Program in Manchester. Student chefs are individuals seeking culinary skills for the purpose of finding employment in the food service industry. The pork donated was prepared by the students for nearby soup kitchens to feed families in need.

Forty-two pounds of vegetables from the Great Garden Grow-off were collected at the end of the event and were donated to the Merrimack/Belknap Community Action Program. In addition to this amount, Erin Marlowe collected vegetables from Belknap County totaling 260 lbs and a Farm Bureau



Theo Mongeau of Auburn was presented a gift and was recognized at the NHFBF annual meeting for coordinating the donation of farm produce to the Sunshine Soup Kitchen in Derry.

volunteer dropped off an additional 60 pounds of potatoes and onions.

Rockingham County went to the extreme of collecting and delivering 2,340 lbs of apples, potatoes and squash. It was later in the day and the drop-off location was no longer open, so Young Farmer Theo Mongeau along with Phil Ferdinando with J&F Farms in Derry delivered the fresh produce to the local soup kitchen. The staff was thrilled to see all the fresh produce arrive. To recognize Theo's efforts in coordinating the food delivery, Erin Marlowe presented him with a gift basket and a \$50 gift certificate to Applebee's at the NHFBF annual meeting. Congratulations Theo and Rockingham County Farm Bureau for donating more than any other county!

Thank you to the following organizations for their generous support of the 96th Annual Meeting.

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Special Thanks to Golf Cars of New Hampshire, a subsidiary of Lincoln of Concord, for the use of their golf carts at our annual meeting