



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## New Hampshire State Office

Federal Bldg., 2 Madbury Rd., Durham, NH, 03824  
603-868-7581, fax: 603-868-5301

[www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov)

---

# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Betty Anderson

Public Affairs Specialist

603-868-7581 x136

Photos: <https://plus.google.com/photos/112357411750388332042/albums/5772058791615282881>

August 2, 2012

## USDA Celebrates 150 Years of Service to the People of New Hampshire

MILES SMITH FARM, LOUDON, NH – Yesterday the USDA held an event to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's founding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1862, when he called it "the People's Department," a sentiment that still rings true today as the Department's diverse portfolio boasts strong support for American [agriculture](#) and [local and regional food systems](#), as well as critical [nutrition assistance](#), [food safety](#), [conservation](#), [rural development](#), and [research](#) programs, among many other programs and initiatives.

Acting Deputy Undersecretary Judy Canales joined New Hampshire USDA leaders from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service and Agricultural Statistics at the Miles Smith Farm to celebrate the USDA's accomplishments in New Hampshire and thank hundreds of partners who have contributed to agriculture and forestry in the Granite State. Owners Carole Soule and Bruce Dawson, last year's recipient of the NH Farmer the Year Award, hosted the crowd on their farm that was founded in the 1830s.

Representatives of Senator Shaheen, Senator Ayotte, Congressman Guinta and Congressman Bass relayed the legislators' good wishes for the continued success of the USDA and lauded its accomplishments over the past 150 years. New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture, Lorraine Merrill, also spoke of the importance of the State and Federal partnership in New Hampshire and the importance of Federal help for the safety, health and security of New Hampshire citizens. Jeff Holmes, President of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau talked about local farms and how much the USDA field representatives have helped them, as



**New Hampshire State Office**

Federal Bldg., 2 Madbury Rd., Durham, NH, 03824  
603-868-7581, fax: 603-868-5301

[www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov)

# NEWS RELEASE

well as his hope for the passage of a New Farm Bill that will continue to provide the programs New Hampshire farmers so desperately need.

Following the speeches, Terry Miller and Tom Wagner of the Forest Service and Rick Ellsmore of the Natural Resources Conservation Service presented “Two Chiefs” awards to partners and individuals for their conservation work in the White Mountain National Forest and the Upper Ammonoosuc and Israel River Watersheds. Each year, the Chiefs of the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service give a few awards to individuals and organizations to recognize exemplary employees or officials from State forestry agencies, Conservation Districts, as well as the Forest Service and NRCS who have worked collaboratively to support conservation and forest stewardship. The “Two Chiefs” award highlights the very best partnerships and projects occurring across the country. NH Conservation Leaders joined forces in 2011 to enhance fish and wildlife habitat improvement on private and federal lands. This unique collaboration between USFS and NRCS expanded the NH conservation footprint by connecting White Mountain National Forest lands and privately-owned lands to enhance fish and wildlife habitat management, including implementation of key conservation practice applications to improve cold water fisheries, control invasive species, improve dense softwood and aspen birch habitats, decommission logging roads, build fish friendly stream crossings, and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation of surface waters and wetlands. The following people and organizations were recognized:

Richard Ellsmore	NRCS
Thomas Wagner	FS/White Mtn Nat’l Forest
K.R. (Roger) Simmons	FS/White Mtn Nat’l Forest
Donald Keirstead	NRCS
Daryl Burtnett	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Lougee	The Nature Conservancy
Brad Simpkins	NH Div. of Forest & Lands
Darrel Covell	UNH CE
Steve Fuller	Wildlife Management Institute
Scot Williamson	Wildlife Management Institute
John Lanier	Wildlife Management Institute
Steve Weber	NH Fish & Game
Charlie Bridges	NH Fish & game



**New Hampshire State Office**

Federal Bldg., 2 Madbury Rd., Durham, NH, 03824  
603-868-7581, fax: 603-868-5301

# NEWS RELEASE

[www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov)

---

Albert (Bert) vonDohrmann	Coos County Conservation District
Colin Lawson	Trout Unlimited
Will Abbott	SPNHF
Andrew French	US Fish & Wildlife

Following the Two Chiefs’ Award ceremony, guests were treated to music donated by Drowned Valley and a very special local foods farmers’ market including ice cream, local meats, cheeses, fruits, vegetables, and maple syrup, just to name a few. USDA agencies and other organizations staffed booths to provide information to the visitors on a wide array of conservation, agriculture, and forestry programs. Granite State Dairy Promotion, Contocook Creamery, and Huckins Farm donated ice cream while Miles Smith Farm donated bar-b-q sausage.

The schedule included a farm tour of eight sites with experts from USDA agencies, along with farmers, NH Department of Agriculture Markets and Food, and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, designed to give people in-depth information about the Rural Energy for America Program (RD), the Value Added Producer Grant Program (RD), The Specialty Crop Block Grant (NHDAMF), Farm Loans (FSA), Agricultural Statistics (NASS), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, including Heavy Use Areas, Nutrient Management, Pastures, Grazing, and Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS) and Nutrient Management Grants (NHDAMF).

At the close of the festivities, the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of the USDA was commemorated with a stone set in a new “Peoples’ Garden” at the Miles Smith Farm.

---

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, TDD).