



### The New Hampshire Plant Growers' Association partners with The New Hampshire Farm Bureau

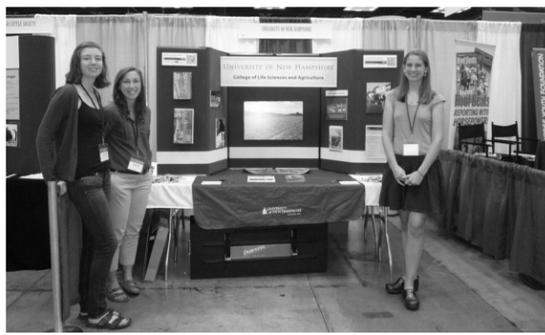
One of the topics discussed at the 2011 New Hampshire Plant Growers' Association (NHPGA) Summer Meeting was the potential liaison between the NHPGA and the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation (NHFB). Rob Johnson explained exactly what services the NHFB could provide in order to assist with the administrative portion of the organization. Since that time, members of the Board of Directors have been working with NHFB personnel to allow that transition to occur.

While the NHPGA continues to be its own entity, many administrative duties have been assumed by NHFB. These duties include complete bookkeeping services as well as phone and mail service. Other responsibilities include the maintenance of the NHPGA database, mailing information to NHPGA members, and assisting with the Summer and Winter Meetings.

The liaison allows much better publicity for NHPGA through several venues. Dedicated space in each issue of *"The Communicator"* and a prominent link on the NHFB website reach out to a wide and diverse audience. A space on the bulletin board in the NHFB office provides a physical presence there as well.

The NHFB Government Affairs staff reports on public policy issues at NHPGA Directors' meetings upon request. This provides an important link between NHPGA members and the NH legislature. It also keeps members current on legislative and regulatory issues affecting the plant industry. NHPGA members are encouraged to contact Board members if there are issues of concern that you would like communicated to the Government Affairs staff.

The partnership between the two organizations is intended to benefit the NHFB as well. The horticulture industry is a major contributor to agricultural business in New Hampshire. This relationship allows the NHFB to increase its reach to this industry. The fee structure for NHFB services is based on the percentage of NHPGA members that also hold NHFB memberships. This is designed to strengthen both organizations in coming years. Members of NHPGA are strongly encouraged to consider becoming NHFB members if they are not already affiliated.



### NHPGA Assists in Collegiate Future Farmers of America Trip

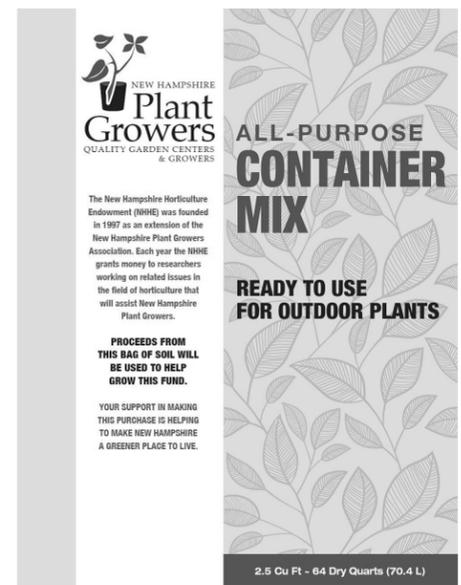
The New Hampshire Plant Growers' Association (NHPGA) was pleased to help sponsor the local chapter of the Collegiate Future Farmers of America (CFFA) on their October trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The purpose of their trip was to promote the University of New Hampshire and its agricultural programs. This provided an opportunity to reach out to over 50,000 high school students who attended the convention and are interested in pursuing agricultural careers.

The trip also allowed the students to attend a college and career fair designed to help them find potential careers or continuing education programs. The NHPGA appreciates the goals of the chapter which include promoting agricultural awareness within the UNH campus and increasing awareness of FFA at the collegiate level to high school students.



### National FFA Convention Trip by Brittny Buck

The National Future Farmers of America Convention turned out to be a great success for both the University of New Hampshire as well as the individuals that attended. During the two and half day convention we had an amazing experience as a group. We had the opportunity to talk to so many different people about the university and hear about where they were from. We also had quite a few New England high schools and colleges come up and talk to us about how great it was to see us out there with a booth. Along with talking to students about their college dreams we made time for our members to walk around and talk with various industry members about potential jobs or internship openings. We also made a few connections about funding for any conferences that CFFA wanted to attend to increase leadership skills. We all had a blast out at Indianapolis, and we hope that next year we can get another group to go out with potentially more members so they could take advantage of the different workshops that were going on.



### New Design for NHPGA Container Mix

A new bag design for the New Hampshire Plant Growers (NHPGA) Container Mix has been announced. The new design is a fresh, updated style which still explains the benefits of supporting the New Hampshire Horticultural Endowment (NHHE).

The NHPGA, in partnership with the NHHE, has sold bags of specially labeled Fafard Container Mix at New Hampshire centers since 1993 to benefit the NHHE. Last year, NHPGA members raised over \$2,600 for the NHHE fund. One dollar from the sale of every bag goes to research that benefits NH growers. Nearly \$25,000 has been raised so far since the bag's inception.

The NHHE Container Mix is a high quality peat & compost based soil. Typically the home owner will have regular success with just normal watering and moderate fertilization appropriate for the plant used. The Fafard company is wooing gardeners to "grow a masterpiece" by letting them know its potting mixes are "trusted by professional growers."

There are 14 independent garden centers in New Hampshire that sell the NHPGA Container Mix. If you would like to sell some at your garden center or farm stand, please contact Pete Gagnon at (860) 428-8470 [peterg@sungro.com](mailto:peterg@sungro.com)

### NHPGA Creates a Facebook Page

Recognizing that social media has changed how people interact in their daily lives and how people choose to receive information, the NHPGA has created a Facebook page. It will serve as an easy way to receive timely information about upcoming events in New Hampshire and New England that are of interest to greenhouse growers and garden centers.

Please like NHPGA on Facebook today in order to keep current on NH ornamental horticulture. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/NHPGA> or scan the QR code below with your smart phone.

