

Bringing news to New Hampshire Farm Bureau families

Land Use Issue

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CANTERBURY, NH

Story By Maureen Duffy
NHFBF Communications Director

With the flip of a switch a decision was made — to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Maple syrup producers, Tim Meeh and his wife Jill McCullough made this decision 19

years ago when acid rain was affecting their trees. When turning the light switch on in their new home they noticed nearby power plants emitting pollution into the atmosphere — and the connection was made.

The decision sent the couple on a quest to find an alternative energy to

power their Canterbury farm. Perhaps part of their inspiration came from the Shakers who lived on the property decades ago. Tim grew up on the North Family Farm and saw the traces of the Shakers lives and the land that supported them. It was a sustainable

ENERGY SOLUTIONS - page 4

Agriculture Department

By Rob Johnson
NHFBF Executive Director

MERGER BILL Appears DEAD

House Sub-Committee Make Unanimous Recommendation of Inexpedient-to-Legislate



NH Farm Bureau President Jeff Holmes testified that Farm Bureau "strongly" opposed SB 132.

At press time SB 132, a bill passed by the State Senate in early April that established a commission to develop implementation plans for merging the Department of Cultural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, the Department of Fish and Game, the Division of Parks and Recreation, and the Division of Forests and Lands into a new Department of Natural and Cultural Resources looks like it will die a quick death.

It looks this way as a result of a House Executive Departments and Administration (ED&A) Sub-Committee's unanimous re-

commendation to the full ED&A Committee of Inexpedient-to-Legislate (ITL). ITL is a motion to kill a bill. The vote was 9-0. The full 20 member ED&A Committee was scheduled to vote on the bill May 5 with its recommendation going before the House for a vote in mid-May. One of the duties of the ED&A Committee is to hear bills dealing with matters of policy pertaining to state agencies.

At the April 29 Sub-Committee work session, Committee members spoke about how they were "struck" by farmers' strong support for the Department of Agriculture. They

were told by farmer after farmer that the Department really helps them, particularly when it comes to dealing with government regulation. Committee members were notably impressed with the overwhelmingly positive feedback concerning the agency.

Representative Laurie Harding of Lebanon was impressed by the "personal relationship farmers have with the Department" and with how they were concerned with the "possibility they would no longer have immediate access" to Department personnel.

Rep. Peter Schmidt of Dover said that it (SB 132) was the most phone calls he had ever received on a



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