



PO Box 2311 • Concord NH 03302
603.796.2615 • nhacd.org

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For immediate release

For further information, contact:

Michele L. Tremblay, Executive Director
603.796.2615 and director@nhacd.org

Calvin Perkins, President
603.786.9601 and calperkins@netscape.com

The Robie Farm in Piermont was chosen as the New Hampshire Cooperator of the Year by the NH Association of Conservation Districts at their Annual Meeting held December 7-8, 2005 in Waterville Valley, NH. This year marks the Association's 60th anniversary.

The Robie Farm was selected from diverse nominations from throughout the state. Representatives from the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food; NH Envirothon, and US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service served as the evaluation and selection team this year.

Since its founding in 1870, the Robie farm has been in the family for five generations. Betty Sue and Lee Robie manage the farm with their children, Freeman, Neil, Timothy, and Mark. The family raises registered Holsteins and operates a retail store. The Robie Farm has been working with the Grafton County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and NH Department of Environmental Services on several on-the-ground conservation practices. They have initiated a stream-bank protection project, a manure storage facility. The Robie Farm is using non-commercial fertilizers and hosted a conservation practices tour in 2004. The Robie family strives to make the best possible business and environmental decisions for their operation and their land.

"We felt very honored and appreciated to be recognized with the NH Association of Conservation Districts's Cooperator of the Year Award," said Lee and Sue Robie, "We were motivated to work with the Grafton

County Conservation District because it was important to us that we not only have a facility that was environmentally friendly but that would also demonstrate our willingness to cooperate with the agencies who promote sound practices.”

“The Robie Farm reflects on the high quality conservation work that agriculture implements in New Hampshire,” said Calvin Perkins, President, NH Association of Conservation Districts, “This work is done voluntarily because of their belief in excellence in land stewardship.” Perkins added, “The award provides these stewards with well-deserved recognition for their efforts.”

Past Cooperator of the Year Award winners include Huntington Hill Farm, Hanover; Brentwood Conservation Commission, Brentwood; Rosaly’s Garden, Peterborough; and the Chocorua Lake Association.

Formed to assist and support the state’s ten County Conservation Districts in carrying out their long-term programs and objectives, the NHACD is comprised of members from all ten counties. It facilitates the necessity and celebrates the success of local leaderships within the Districts and Association to achieve the common goal of sound soil and water conservation. The NHACD manages the New Hampshire’s Envirothon and Soil Judging competitions as well as other conservation education programs. For further information, visit nhacd.org.

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