



# **Food For Thought: Challenges and opportunities facing farmers and consumers in New Hampshire**

**Monday, November 18**

**1:00-3:30**

**Horseshoe Pond Place, 26 Commercial St, Concord**

The New Hampshire advantage is going directly to the farm and picking apples, selecting peaches, squash and pumpkins and enjoying that end of the season sweet corn and big red sun-ripened tomatoes. The local farm stands and farmers' markets add all sorts of fresh foods to our tables. Although we enjoy this advantage, most of us have given little thought to the challenges facing New Hampshire farmers.

The League of Women Voters of the United States is studying current technology and policy issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and genetic engineering, to update our position. Our existing policy on agriculture includes positions on food safety, support for farmers, and regulations to protect the environment.

Join us for a lively workshop day, hear from New Hampshire experts on some of these topics as we focus our study on these issues from the New Hampshire perspective.

**Keynote Speaker:** Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food – Overview of Agriculture in New Hampshire and current issues

**Panel:** Moderator: Liz Tentarelli, Co-President, LWVNH

Estelle Hbarak, Ph.D., Associate Professor at UNH explaining GMO's and genetic engineering

Rep. Maureen Mann, prime sponsor of HB660 (proposal to require labeling of GMO products)

Roger Noonan, owner of Middle Branch Farm in New Boston and President of the New Hampshire Farmer's Union speaking on the federal Food Safety and Modernization Act of 2011 and its implications

Chuck Souther, owner of Apple Hill Farm in Concord speaking on the impact of federal regulations on the small farmer.



**Road directions:** Take **Route 93 to Exit 15 West**. You'll get on Route 202 West. Take first **right** turn after the cloverleaf onto Commercial Street (yellow blinking lights at that turn). Follow Commercial St to a T intersection, take a **right** turn and then a **right** turn into the parking lot of Horseshoe Pond Place. Drive along the building to the end, take a **left** and our room is in the back. First green door – we'll post signs. This is a residential facility so residents have numbered parking spaces. **Park only in spaces without a number, please.**