

Hadley's Jessica Dizek and Thomas Giles Elected to the Three County Fair's Board of Directors

- Tuesday, March 29, 2022 -

Northampton, MA – The Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden Agricultural Society, the non-profit organization that manages Northampton's Three County Fair & fairgrounds has elected two new members to its Board of Directors, Jessica Dizek of Mapleline Farm in Hadley and Thomas Giles, former owner of the Hadley Garden Center. Both Dizek and Giles join the Society's Board consisting of twenty-one other members who make up the Fair's agricultural leadership. The Society held its first meeting in December of 1817, and received its charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts two months later in February of 1818.

Dizek is the 5th generation on her family's farm, Mapleline. Mapleline Farm milks about 125 Jerseys and bottles their milk on the farm premises. They run a distribution business, wholesaling fluid milk products to the local area and Boston market. Prior to her taking over operating the farm full-time in 2018, Jessica held full-time employment off the farm for 20 years, most recently at UMass Amherst. Jessica started at the university working for Cooperative Extension programs and eventually working in alumni major gifts. During this time, she also earned her MBA from UMass Isenberg School of Management. Jessica currently serves as the treasurer for the New England Jersey Breeders Association and serves as a director for the Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board, and is a member of the MA Dairy Advisory Board for the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center. She and her husband Chad have two boys, Austin and Henry.

Giles is a graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture having majored in Landscape Operations and first worked for the Hadley Garden Center in the spring of 1973. In January of 1988, Giles and his wife, Janine, purchased the Garden Center and ran it for thirty-three years until selling the Center to Gardeners Supply Co, of Vermont in January of 2020. Janine Giles passed away in December 2020 shortly after their retirement. Thomas and Janine raised two children, daughter Brittany, who lives in Voorheesville, NY and a son, Tom who lives in Boston. Giles is an active member of the First Congregational Church of Hadley and is on the board of directors for Easthampton Savings Bank, and has also served on the Horticulture/Forestry advisory committee at Smith Vocational High School.

About the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society:

Located in Northampton, Massachusetts and incorporated in 1818, the Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden County Agricultural Society promotes agriculture, agricultural education, agricultural science and sustainability for the region through exhibitions, displays, competitions and demonstrations and annually operates The Three County Fair, recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as the oldest on-going Fair in continuous operation in the U.S.A, with the first Three County Fair taking place, October 14-15, 1818 and every year since without interruption.

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