

Belchertown's Thomas E. Smiarowski Elected as Three County Fair President

- Wednesday, March 1, 2023 -

Northampton, MA – The Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden Agricultural Society, the non-profit organization that manages Northampton's Three County Fair & fairgrounds has elected its newest President, Thomas E. Smiarowski of Belchertown. Smiarowski has been a member of the Society for more than twenty years and was elected to its Board of Directors in 2016. The appointment was made official at the Fair's Annual Meeting held in January with Smiarowski expected to serve two years as President. Smiarowski will lead the Society's Board of Directors, which consists of twenty-one other appointees who make up the Fair's agricultural leadership. The Society was first organized in December of 1817 by a group of area leaders in business and farming with the purpose to promote agriculture and the domestic arts. The Society received its charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts two months later in February of 1818.

"It is an honor and privilege being elected to serve as President of the Three County Fair", said Smiarowski. "Agricultural fairs play a vital role in providing opportunities for farmers, both young and old, to exhibit their livestock and agricultural products. Equally important, agricultural fairs provide members of the local community the opportunity to get an up close and personal look at farming and interact with farmers. The Three County Fair has a rich history of serving the community in those capacities and I look forward to continuing that tradition and building upon that history."

Smiarowski grew up on the family vegetable and dairy farm in Montague where he continues to help his brother Dan who currently owns and operates the family farm. Following his graduation from the University of Massachusetts, Smiarowski worked 34 years for the USDA - Farm Service Agency, holding a number of management positions. Following his retirement from USDA in 2012, Smiarowski worked 10 years as an agricultural risk management educator for UMass Extension. Smiarowski is currently a director of the Massachusetts Agricultural Club, the longest standing agricultural club in the country; serves as a Massachusetts Trustee of the Eastern States Exposition; and, is a member of the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association. Smiarowski also serves on the Capital Campaign to fund the new construction of the Newman Catholic Center on the UMass campus. Smiarowski and his wife, Michelle reside in Belchertown.

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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