



## **2008 Friend of Extension Award - Jack Sherburne**

For his commitment and support of UNH Cooperative Extension's outreach goals, Deerfield resident Jack Sherburne received the 2008 Friend of Extension award at the May 19 UNH Cooperative Extension annual conference.

Some highlights of Sherburne's efforts on behalf of Cooperative Extension include:

- Serving as chair of a legislative study committee charged to review Cooperative Extension. That report and its recommendations were all adopted by the New Hampshire legislature and UNH in 1988, serving as the basis for a solid foundation for UNH Cooperative Extension and strengthening its funding partnerships between the university, state and county government. (He was elected to the legislature in the early 1980's, and was first appointed to the House Environment and Agriculture Committee.)
- Served as a member of the Rockingham County Extension Advisory Council.

Sherburne, who graduated from UNH in 1949, served in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He flew bombing missions during WWII and in a January, 2008, article in the Concord Monitor, he commented that "in June of 1945, I had flown enough missions and they let me out. I would have gone back had they asked. I was certainly aware of how important it was to destroy the Axis power, probably more from the standpoint of humanity. The Germans treated so many people poorly and killed so many civilians, but exactly where all this was going, it didn't really enter our heads. When we finally got to college, we began to realize how big a thing this was. We had time to reflect. I think we did it right."

Following graduation, he bought a farm in Deerfield and served as a selectman for the town.

Sherburne has also:

- Worked with the NH Lakes Association.
- Led a successful effort to create a senior housing neighborhood in Deerfield's town center. The name "Sherburne Woods" recognizes his work in making this happen.
- Has for many years allowed the use of his family's land for enjoyment by others.
- Donated a conservation easement on land that contains a rare natural community and an important stream that feeds Pawtuckaway Lake.
- Worked to conserve other land, including that containing important farm land and rare natural communities.
- Managed a family homestead with gardens and animals, demonstrating a way of life that connects with the land.

As Dean John Pike noted in presenting the award to Sherburne, "Jack is a highly-respected member of the community, recognized for his warm and generous nature and his even-tempered wisdom." Sherburne and his wife Suzanne have five children and four grandchildren.