



Grafton County UNHCE



Support for Cooperative Extension Makes Positive Impacts in Grafton County

Selected Highlights

Grafton County UNH Cooperative Extension is part of a statewide network of county offices bringing the University of New Hampshire resources directly to the people who live and work in Grafton County. Grafton County Extension is backed by more than 30 campus-based Extension specialists.

UNH Cooperative Extension provides research-based education and information to New Hampshire citizens, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources and improve the economy.

County government in partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension

County Commissioners:
Michael Cyrans, Chair
Omer Ahern Jr., Vice Chair
Ray Burton, Clerk

State Rep. Lyle "Rusty" Bulis,
Chair, County Legislative
Delegation

John Pike
Dean and Director, UNHCE

County Investment:

- For the \$314,817 investment Grafton County makes in UNH Cooperative Extension programs, an additional \$376,610 of state and federal funds are invested directly toward county staff, programming, administrative costs and computer support for Grafton County.

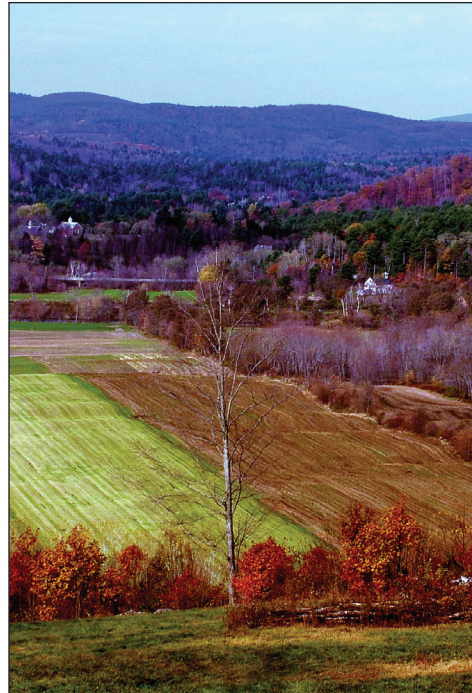
Community Development:

- Grafton County Extension continues as a resource to communities in community development and planning. To build community capacity, Extension educators provide a variety of educational services to community residents, organizations and local governments. Examples include facilitation of community forums, assistance with planning activities, training in leadership development, and provision of technical assistance for economic development, tourism and communications.

Agricultural Productivity:

- Grafton County Extension provides technical assistance to commercial farms through approximately 100 farm visits, 300 phone and email consultations, and 10 workshops and twilight meetings each year.

Topics include production and marketing issues, IPM, pest alerts,



enterprise farming and business planning. In addition each year approximately 20 workshops or presentations are held for backyard food producers, community groups, hobby farmers and youth audiences.

- Over the last two years, Extension has collaborated with the Grafton County Farm to conduct three research projects related to vegetable production. When the data collection was finished, the produce was donated to area

senior centers and food banks. During the first project, a 2010 pepper variety trial, 1,000 pepper plants representing 13 varieties resulted in a donation of approximately 2,000 pounds of peppers to local food banks and senior centers.

Food Safety:

- Since 2000, 82 SERVS SAFE® Classes educated over 1,000 food service workers. Of those taking the national exam, 913 food service workers passed the test and received a five-year certification. The SERVS SAFE® course is sponsored by the National Restaurant Association and covers personal hygiene, cross contamination and time and temperature issues that can cause food to become unsafe. Other food service workers attended Safety Awareness in the Food Environment classes in a program offered directly at their establishment location.

GRAFTON COUNTY

Forest Resources:

- During this past year, 61 site visits encompassing 5,900 acres of private land, and 45 professional forester referrals were made to private landowners. Of those acres, 2,184 have come under some sort of forest management. From these contracts approximately \$255,625 was paid to logging contractors resulting in \$120,250 paid directly to landowners for timber cut on their land. Approximately \$10,225 was paid to Grafton County towns in timber tax revenue from timber sales initiated by Extension's referrals and recommendations.
- During the past year 347 adults attended workshops that included selling timber, spruce/fir management, tree identification, backyard maple sugaring, current use and the fundamentals of forestry. These workshops educated landowners, forestry professionals and concerned citizens about the use and management of our forest resources.

Youth Development:

- The 4-H experience provides a foundation for future success as youth develop and practice critical life skills and become more independent, as evidenced by research and a testimonial from a local 4-H volunteer, "Our club president has learned to conduct an orderly meeting. She realizes that she has the power (in a good way) to take charge and control the meeting. She takes the younger or new members under her wing

and teaches them that even though you are a youth, you can learn and do just as an adult can do."

- 4-H provides youth with community service opportunities that help them learn the responsibilities of citizenship and become

contributing and connected members of society. Over 325 hours were contributed to these projects by youth and adults.

- More than 1300 youth participated in 4-H activities and learning experiences through



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COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Emilie Shipman, Enfield
Cheryl Taber, Littleton
Kathleen Taylor, Franconia
Grafton County Commissioner (rotating basis)

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Grafton County's 4-H community clubs and school enrichment programs in 2010. Supported by 103 screened volunteers, these youth gained critical life skills and improved their confidence levels. An additional 344 youth took part in nutrition education events that taught them to eat healthier and stay active.

- Volunteer hours given by 4-H leaders and others totaled over 9300 hours in 2010. In today's market, the economic value is \$193,905, according to the Independent Sector.

Volunteers:

- Grafton County's 26 Master Gardener volunteers worked in 25 communities and contributed a total of almost 995 hours. The Memorial Garden at the Grafton County Nursing Home is one example of their work. This effort provides nursing home residents with flowers, shrubs and trees they can see, touch, taste, smell and hear. The Gardening Empowerment Project at the Whole Village Family Resource Center in Plymouth provides educational opportunities to preschoolers and aspiring gardeners as well as food for community dinners and residents of a nearby homeless shelter.

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