

## **UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

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### Mission Statement

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension provides New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy. Your Rockingham County office brings this commitment to you by providing educational programs within your community.

As your local link to the University of New Hampshire, Cooperative Extension in Rockingham County provides practical education to people of all ages. The "Cooperative" part of our name refers to a funding combination of federal, state, and local allocations. This partnership has been in existence since 1914. "Extension" refers to extending the knowledge and research from the State Land Grant University system to the people and towns throughout New Hampshire. As an outreach program, there is a network of professional Extension staff in all 10 New Hampshire counties complemented by Extension specialists at UNH. Trained volunteers further expand our educational impacts. Extension informal educational efforts include monitoring water quality in our lakes and rivers; collaborating with others to sustain the marine fishery and enhance aquaculture; presenting parenting, food safety, and family finance programs, coordinating 4-H clubs and community youth development, teaching best practices in agriculture, food production, and forest stewardship; promoting land use management; reducing the use of pesticides; meeting the needs of low-income families, and strengthening our communities.

Strengthening New Hampshire communities is one of several statewide initiatives that have impacted Rockingham County. A primary focus of this initiative is the Community Profile which helps communities assess where they are today and develop an action plan for the future. It provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, to meet challenges creatively through collaboration, and to manage change. Follow-up support is available from Extension staff.

Our County Extension Advisory Council ensures that Extension programs are on target and efficiently delivered by their focus on needs assessment, program development, and evaluation. The Advisory Council includes 15 Rockingham County citizens, County Commissioner Kate Pratt, and NH State Representative George Winchell of Atkinson. The chair of the Council for 2005 was Liz Conrad from Epping.

The statewide UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line (1-877-398-4769) provides information on: gardens, lawns and landscapes, fruits and vegetables, food safety and food preservation, pest problems, integrated pest management, backyard wildlife, tree planting and care, houseplants, home water systems, and backyard livestock.

The educators and staff thank the Board of Commissioners and the County Delegation members for their continued support.