

## UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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The mission of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is to provide 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 county 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. Examples of our efforts in 2006 to extend education to Rockingham County residents include: over 2,000 youth and adult volunteers participated in 4-H Youth Development clubs, programs, and coalitions; over 6,500 adults and youth were reached with nutrition, food safety, parenting, money management and media awareness information and programs; about 2,000 growers took part in programs on best practices in agriculture and food production; hundreds of communities, private landowners, and public and private conservation partners received information and assistance to help conserve open space lands; commercial fishermen and researchers collaborated on successful open aquaculture and cooperative research projects producing economic benefits for the fishing and shore-side support industries.

Strengthening New Hampshire Communities is one of several statewide initiatives that have impacted Rockingham County. In February 2006 Greenland, NH participated in a Community Profile process, which helps communities assess where they are today and develop an action plan for the future. At least 140 Greenland residents participated in the two-day process, and the following areas were identified as projects to consider: create an economic development committee, create opportunities for more citizen input in the planning and zoning, create a print and on-line community newsletter, assess and better utilize existing resources, identify and educate regarding the town’s natural resources, recommend Select Board with five people.

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 included 13 Rockingham County citizens, County Commissioner Kate Pratt, and NH State Representative George Winchell of Atkinson. The Chair of the Council for 2006 was Liz Conrad from Epping.

Lastly, the statewide UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line (1-877-398-4769) provides all residents including those in Rockingham County with information on the following areas: 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. They are also available to make referrals on programming opportunities in all of the UNH Cooperative Extension disciplines. In addition, Rockingham County residents can access information at the UNH Cooperative Extension web site [www.extension.unh.edu](http://www.extension.unh.edu) and click on Counties for specific events occurring in Rockingham County.

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