

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. Examples of our efforts in 2007 to extend education to Rockingham County residents include the following:

- Over 1,000 youth and adult volunteers participated in 4-H Youth Development clubs, programs, and coalitions.
- Over 6,000 adults and youth were reached with nutrition, food safety, parenting, money management and media awareness programs.
- About 2,400 growers and landscapers took part in programs on best practices in agriculture, food production, marketing, and sustainable practices. Over 10,000 face-to-face and media contacts were made through the Master Gardner program involving 1,959 volunteer hours.
- Hundreds of communities, private landowners, and public and private conservation partners received information and assistance to help conserve open space lands.
- The new Extension Forester inspected 13 Tree Farms totaling 1,176 acres, provided technical forestry assistance to 15 landowners owning 764 acres, and made 14 referrals to private, licensed New Hampshire foresters.
- Commercial fishermen and researchers collaborated on successful open aquaculture and cooperative research projects producing economic benefits for the fishing and shore-side support industries.
- The Rockingham County section of the UNH Cooperative Extension web site was enhanced and information can be easily found by visiting:
<http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Rockingham/Rockingham.htm>.
- This year both Auburn, New Hampshire and Epping, New Hampshire participated in a Community Profile process, which helps communities assess where they are today and develop an action plan for the future.
- The statewide UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line, 1-877-398-4769, responded to over 1,000 Rockingham County residents on agricultural, food safety and food preservation questions.

Our Rockingham County Extension Advisory Council provides input on needs assessment, program development, and evaluation. The Advisory Council included 12 Rockingham County citizens, County Commissioner Kate Pratt, and New Hampshire State Representative Kim Casey of East Kingston, New Hampshire. The Chair of the Council for 2007 was Susan Turner from Portsmouth.

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