

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 2008 to extend education to Rockingham County residents include the following:

- Over 1,000 youth and adult volunteers participated in 4-H Youth Development clubs, after school programs, special events, and related community coalitions.
- Over 6,764 adults and youth were reached 129 programs in nutrition, healthy lifestyles, food safety, parenting, life skills, money management and media awareness programs.
- More than 2,500 growers, schools, parks and recreations and landscapers received information and technical assistance on best management practices in growing crops, athletic fields and landscape. Another 500 attended workshops on farm business management and marketing directly to consumers. Food production and food security were among the hot topics.
- Over 4,984 face-to-face and media contacts were made through the Master Gardner program involving 2,494 volunteer hours.
- Hundreds of communities, private landowners, and public and private conservation partners received information and assistance to help conserve open space lands.
- The Extension Forester inspected seven Tree Farms totaling 979 acres, provided technical forestry assistance to 49 landowners totaling 3,440 acres, and made 28 referrals to private, licensed NH foresters. He also conducted 11 workshops with 316 participants.
- 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 statewide UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line (1-877-398-4769) responded to 1,226 calls from Rockingham County residents on questions in home gardening, forestry and wildlife, nutrition, food safety, food preservation, family finance, and youth development.

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 Representative Kim Casey of East Kingston, New Hampshire. The Chair of the Council for 2007-2008 was Susan Turner from Portsmouth. The Extension Educators and staff thank the Board of Commissioners and the County Delegation members for their continued support.