

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 2009 to extend education to Rockingham County residents include the following:

- Over 1,000 youth and 200 adult volunteers and student interns participated in 4-H Youth Development clubs, after-school programs, special events such as SPACES and the Stratham and Deerfield Fairs, and community coalitions and projects such as the Raymond Coalition and Seacoast Youth Leadership Project.
- Over 1,340 adults and 409 youth were reached with 154 Family and Consumer Resources and Nutrition Connections programs on nutrition, physical activity, healthy lifestyles, food safety, parenting, life skills, money management and media awareness programs.
- More than 6,000 growers, schools, parks and recreations and landscapers received information and technical assistance on best management practices in growing crops, athletic fields and landscape through Agricultural Resource programs. Marketing directly to consumers, food production and food security were among the hot topics. Over 7,300 adults and 2,382 youth were reached through the Master Gardner program involving 1,700 volunteer hours.
- The Land and Water Conservation Educator worked with landowners, communities, and private conservation organizations to complete 13 projects that permanently conserved 765 acres in Rockingham County. Eighteen workshops were provided on conservation topics for 624 adults and 65 youth.
- The Extension Educator in Forest Resources inspected seven Tree Farms totaling 301 acres, provided technical forestry assistance to 68 landowners totaling 2,799 acres, and made 19 referrals to private, licensed NH foresters. He also conducted 24 workshops, presentations and field days for 672 adults and 272 youth.
- The statewide UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center and Info Line (1-877-398-4769) responded to about 1,000 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 2008-2009 was Susan Turner from Portsmouth. The Extension Educators and staff thank the Board of Commissioners and the County Delegation members for their continued support.