

## UNH Cooperative Extension Merrimack County

*We served citizens in every community in Merrimack County through our diverse programming such as 4-H, Nutrition Connections, Food & Agriculture, Community & Economic Development, Natural Resources, and Youth & Family, from October 2013 to September 2014, reaching residents in all 27 towns in the county.*

*In the spirit of the regional program model, residents benefitted not only from the Merrimack County-based Extension staff but 58 Extension state and field specialists from outside of Merrimack County. That's 85 percent of our educators.*

### Who we are:

UNH Cooperative Extension, the public outreach arm of the University of New Hampshire, has engaged New Hampshire residents for 100 years with a broad variety of non-formal educational offerings.

### What we do:

UNH Cooperative Extension provides a direct link between UNH and people throughout the state. In partnership with local residents and volunteers, Cooperative Extension plans and conducts educational programs responsive to New Hampshire people and the issues they identify as important to them.



### How we do it:

County Extension field staff bring these programs to county residents through hands-on workshops, site visits, seminars, conferences, phone consultations, video-conferences, printed materials, correspondence courses, a statewide toll free Info Line, and a large website, as well as partnering with other programs to bring the best to the citizens of Merrimack County. Our program areas include:

- **Food & Agriculture:** UNH Cooperative Extension, part of the land grant university, provides educational programs and applied research to promote safe and local food production, dairy and small-scale livestock and poultry production, and the state's large and diverse ornamental horticulture industry. We offer programs in food safety for homeowners, farmers markets, and food service industries, as well as, pesticide applicator training, soil and plant diagnostic services and livestock production. Merrimack County residents participated in Master Gardener training and programs, NH Dairy conference, NH Municipal Turf & Grounds conference, Plant Diagnostics Lab services, Safe Milk Handling training, Small Farm conference, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and Immigrant Farmer training.
- **Natural Resources:** Managing and protecting New Hampshire's natural resources is critical to a healthy environment, our quality of life, and the tourism industry, as well as for current and future economic opportunities. Our Natural Resources Team provides research, education and stewardship throughout the state with a "boots on the ground" approach in extending state-wide programs in forestry and wildlife, natural resource development, land and water conservation, and marine fisheries. Merrimack County residents participated in many Natural Resources Programs: Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle monitoring and educational workshops,

Geospatial Technology Training (GIS), NH Maple School, NH Land Trust Coalition work, Saving Special Places Land Conservation Conference, Speaking for Wildlife talks, Stewardship Network and woodlot visits and Forest Management services.

- **Community & Economic Development:** Our Community and Economic Development team (CED) will continue providing research-based education and assistance to individuals, families, businesses, and communities to help them identify opportunities to enhance their competitive advantage, build upon their assets, and create conditions that foster local and regional economic growth. Merrimack County residents participated in the following programs: Agriculture and Natural Resource Business Institute courses, All Walks of Life Forum, Broadband training and technical assistance, Community Profiles (Dunbarton & Hooksett), Marketing Forest Products workshops, More than Wheels – Making Money Work for You, Selling at Farmers Markets, and Town planning facilitation and technical support.
- **Youth & Family:** Preparing youth to become caring and productive citizens is critical to New Hampshire's future. We pursue this goal through community-based positive youth development, using the 4-H program as a primary vehicle. UNH Extension has always been well-known and is highly regarded for nutrition education programs for families and children across the state. Federal funding from the USDA provides resources for continued support to programs that focus on the specific needs of limited-resource families (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program). We address high-priority issues such as obesity as both a personal health and public health/economic issue. We provide educational resources for parents and families through creative delivery mechanisms, including web-based outreach, e-newsletters and train-the-trainer programs. The research-based education and information we provide enhances New Hampshire citizens' ability to make informed decisions that strengthens families. Merrimack County youth and volunteers participated in 4-H Youth Development programs such as: State and County Activities Day, Eastern States Activities and Competition, Teen Conference, County and State Animal Science Shows, Barry Conservation Camp, Hopkinton State Fair, Volunteer Screening and Training, and Youth Leadership/Youth Voice workshops. Merrimack County residents also participated in Afterschool Professional workshops, Farm to School Days, Military Family Events and Camps, Nutrition Education programs for limited resource families, refugees and local schools.

UNH Extension trains and supports more than 3,359 volunteers statewide providing a value of \$4.5 million . . . 4-H leaders, master gardeners, wildlife coverts, community tree stewards, water quality monitors, marine docents, and others, who extend the reach of Extension programs into many domains of New Hampshire life.

Our state-wide Education Center & toll-free Info Line staffed by volunteers fielded 394 calls from Merrimack County residents alone. Twenty-four Master Gardeners from Merrimack County helped extend Extension's work, volunteering 762 hours and making direct contacts with local residents.

Our efforts contribute to the good health of our state and its people helping foster a strong economy, healthy environment, productive youth and the vibrant communities that make New Hampshire a great place to live, visit, and work.

In 2014, UNH Cooperative Extension reached a major milestone . . . its 100-year anniversary! Participate in the celebration by making an investment in Extension or the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire. Your investment will help ensure that our work for New Hampshire continues far into the next century. Private donations are a critical part of Extension's funding mix. Go to [extension.unh.edu](http://extension.unh.edu) and click **DONATE** to **make a gift, see impacts, and hear from other donors.**



*Merrimack County Advisory Council members, staff and delegation members attended our Strawberry Social at Apple Hill Farm in Concord this June, in celebration of UNH Cooperative Extension's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

**We are fortunate to have 12 community members from all over Merrimack County serving on our Advisory Council:**

Commissioner Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, *Boscawen*  
Larry Ballin, *New London*  
Mark Cowdrey, *Andover*  
Elaine Forst, *Pittsfield*  
Stewart Yeaton, *Epsom*  
Ken Koerber, *Dunbarton*

Chris LaValley, *Allenstown*  
Paul Mercier, *Canterbury*  
Judy Palfrey, *Epsom*  
Mike Trojano, *Contoocook*  
Patrick Gilmartin, *Concord*  
State Rep. Lorrie Carey, *Boscawen*

**Connect with us:**

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Visit our county web site: [extension.unh.edu/About/Merrimack-County](http://extension.unh.edu/About/Merrimack-County)

Extension also distributes a wide range of information from our web site: [extension.unh.edu](http://extension.unh.edu)

UNH Cooperative Extension operates a statewide Education Center and Info Line (toll-free at 1-877-398-4769) which is staffed Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Email questions to: [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu).