

Belknap County Ag Notes

February-March 2012

Vol. 2 Issue No. 2

While winter seems to finally have arrived, some of those seasonal chores are right around the corner. A full slate of pruning workshops is planned for March and April. We do have one more that will be held here in Belknap County, which is not listed on the enclosed schedule. Watch our website and your mailbox for the updated list. If you do not see this schedule in your newsletter mailing, please let me know and I will get it to you.

Some folks have asked where to get fertilizer and pesticides with the closing of Concord Crop Center. With the help of my colleagues around the state, I now have a list to share. Just drop me an e-mail or give me a call...or stop in if you are Laconia.

Finally, UNHCE has finalized our new plan, which has been publicized in the local media recently. More specifics about the Belknap County office will be available soon, and we will provide that information to you once it becomes available. The final plan can be found online at our website.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with a request for a visit. I am always happy to come out-even in the snow.

Farmer's Tax Guide Available

We have plenty of copies of the Farmer's Tax Guide for the 2011 tax season here at the office. Drop in, or call and we'll mail you a copy.



Exam Prep For Private Applicator Pesticide License

If you are using pesticides to grow crops on land you own or lease, and those crops are offered for sale, either on the farm, a farmers market, or any other sales venue, the NH Division of Pesticide Control requires you to obtain a Private Applicator Permit. This rule also applies if you are using organic-approved pesticides.

UNHCE will offer an exam preparation training series, as well as the opportunity to take the exam. Training dates are April 2nd, 9th, and 16th. We are working on firming up locations, however all three sessions will be held here in the Lakes Region.

Agriculture Educators Kelly McAdam of Belknap County, Russell Norton of Carroll County, and Retired Fruit Specialist Bill Lord will teach these sessions.

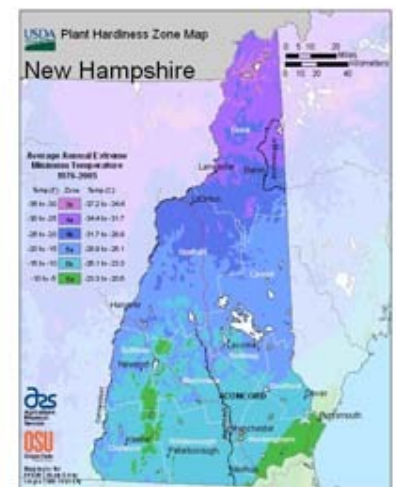
It is strongly advised to purchase the study materials including the Core Manual, Worker Protection Standards, and manuals for the particular commodity you will test in. However, many study materials are available online on our website at www.extension.unh.edu, click on Agriculture, then Pesticide Safety Education Program. More specifics will be available soon for these study sessions. Contact Kelly if you have questions in the meantime.

New USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map

In January the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the first update of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map since 1990. "It is exciting to see a new Zone Map that is more accurate and detailed than the last version, published in 1990" said Cathy Neal, UNH Extension Specialist in Landscape Horticulture. "With more sophisticated weather stations and three decades of data, the lines between zones are much more precise than they used to be."

Don't expect to see big differences in the New Hampshire map, however. The zones are based strictly on average lowest winter temperatures and don't reflect changes in heat days, precipitation or storm events. Nationwide, many zones have shifted by about one half-zone zone (5-degrees F.) warmer, according to USDA, but that reflects better averages not necessarily climate change.

The map is a joint effort between the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Oregon State University's (OSU) PRISM Climate Group. The new map is interactive and incorporates a "find your zone by ZIP code" function. To view the complete map, visit www.usda.gov. You can also contact our office for



a printout.

NOFA-NH Looking for Farmer Mentors

NOFA-NH has received funding through a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant to pilot a Journeyman Program in NH. The two-year program aims to help aspiring farmers with some experience (apprentices, farm workers, or next-generation farmers) become successful by connecting them to an established farmer who serves as a mentor. The organization is looking for experienced farmers who would like to serve as mentors. Mentors need to be available to their journeyman farmers throughout the year for guidance and will be paid a stipend for their time. If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Ray Conner at bof@nofanh.org, or 603-224-5022.

Technology Survey

UNH Cooperative Extension is launching a web survey through the N.H. Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMP) to identify the broadband technology needs of small businesses, including farms and other food-related enterprises, with respect to communication, data management, marketing and training.

Results from the survey will be used to identify small businesses' technology needs, with the goal of developing training and applications to address those needs.

If you are a small business owner, manager, or employee, we invite you to share your technology-related priorities and needs by taking a short, web-based survey.

The assessment is being conducted by NHBMP, which seeks to identify where broadband is currently available in New Hampshire, how it can be made more available, and encourage increased levels of adoption and usage by small businesses and communities.

The link to the survey can be found on the UNHCE website www.extension.unh.edu. If you have questions, or would like a hard copy of the survey, contact French at Charlie.french@unh.edu or by calling 603-862-0316.



Upcoming Meetings & Workshops

February 13th North Country Forage Crop Seminar, Cabot Inn, Lancaster, 10 am to 2 pm, \$15.

February 14th Growing Small Grains for Forage & Food, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, 9:15 to 2:15, \$5.

February 14-16 Commercial Applicator Pesticide Training, NHDES, Concord.

February 15th Bedding Plant Conference, Massabesic Audobon Center, Concord, 8:30 am to 4 pm, \$50, 2 PAT credits.

February 21st Winter Growing & Winter Sales, Unitarian Universalist Church, Concord, \$15.

February 22nd New Concepts in Collaborative Milk Marketing, Makris Restaurant Concord, 9 am to 3 pm, \$15.

March 7th Northern New England Nursery Conference Common Man Restaurant, Concord, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, \$30.

March 10th NH Vegetable and Berry Grower's Annual Meeting, Alan's Restaurant, Boscawen.

March 14th Annual North Country Dairy Seminar & Trade Show, Whitefield. More details TBA.

March 14th Spring Conference for Landscapers, NHTI, Concord, 8 am to 3 pm, \$50.

March 15th Annual Dairy Management Conference, Fire-side Inn & Suites, W. Lebanon, 9 am to 3 pm, \$20/\$25.

March 31st Caring for the Backyard Orchard, Hearthstone B&B, Center Harbor, 10 am to 12 pm, free.

April 2, 9, 16th Exam Prep for Private Applicator Pesticide License, Locations TBA (Lakes Region), 6-9 pm.

April 12th Introduction to Tree Fruit, Time and Location (Lakes Region) TBA.

Many events require pre-registration. For more information, visit www.extension.unh.edu or call 527-5475.

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