



# Ag NEWS

MERRIMACK COUNTY EXTENSION AGRICULTURE NEWS

WINTER 2008

## Upcoming Ag Events - Mark Your Calendars!

### February 18

Apple pruning at Hackleboro Orchard in Canterbury 1:00-3:00 PM, 61 Orchard Road. Presenters are Harry Weiser and Bill Lord. Snow date is Feb. 23 (same times). No registration necessary.

### February 23

Blueberry and Apple pruning demonstration 10:00 AM -12:00 PM at Blue Moon Farm, 195 Waldron Hill Road in Warner snow date February 24, 1:00-3:00 PM. Presenter is Steve Gatcombe. No registration necessary.

### February 28

Tri-County Vegetable, Fruit and Cut Flower Seminar, Alton, NH. Three (3) pesticide credits available. Sponsored by Belknap, Carroll and Strafford Counties. Call Amy Ouellette for more information at (603) 527-5475.

### March 5

Landscape Kick-off, at the PSNH Auditorium, Manchester NH. An informative seminar for landscapers on tree appraising and removing, rain gardens and native plants. Pre-registration cost \$35, lunch included.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone cozy and warm. While you are looking through seed catalogs and grumbling over the price of fertilizer these days... don't forget to make some time to get to know the farmers around you. What better way to keep in touch with the local agriculture scene than to participate in an educational program offered by your local UNH Cooperative Extension Service. Here is a list of current programs being organized by your local agriculture educators. For more information about these programs, call Sadie at 225-5505 unless otherwise stated, or visit our webpage at <http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Merrimack/Merrimack.htm>. All of these programs will have informational fliers on our web page at least 3 weeks prior to the event.

### March 8

The 3rd Annual NH Grazing Conference: Grassfed: From Pasture to Plate, at the Common Man in Plymouth, NH. Pre-registration required, cost \$35. Call Dot Perkins or Mary West at (603) 225-5505 for more information or directions.

### March 12

Turfgrass Maintenance for Landscapers and Municipalities, at the Tin Mountain Conservation Center, Albany NH. Pesticide credits available. Pre-registration required.



### March 26

Garden Center Kick-off, at the Intervale Pancake House and StoneFalls Garden Center in Henniker. Pre-registration cost 10 dollars, breakfast included.

**Landscape at the Water's Edge**, two dates and locations:

### July 15, 17, 22

Lake Sunapee Protective Association, Sunapee Harbor

### October 8 & 15

Keene State University

Pesticide credits available. Pre-registration cost \$125, lunch or dinner included.

## Permaculture

by Dot Perkins, Ag Educator  
UNHCE Merrimack County

The Merrimack County Master Gardeners did an outstanding job last season extending our outreach capabilities. 13 students from the Merrimack Academy program participated in a gardening program. The program focused on urban gardening and permaculture. Permaculture has been a topic of increasing interest and our Master Gardeners have risen to the challenge of educating folks about it. The term was introduced and developed in the 70's by Bill Mollison. Since then it has come to mean many things to many people including but not limited to designs of eco-villages. Looking at it from a gardening standpoint, permaculture requires folks to think of themselves and their gardens as systems within systems, and to work with nature instead of against it. The Master Gardeners are currently helping me implement a permaculture design at the Hooksett Memorial Elementary School. In addition to finding sustainable ways to garden, the public is also concerned about "Nature Deficit Disorder". This term was coined in the book written by Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*. Richards book had almost the same effect upon the public as Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring* did. Every day we get more and more calls from teachers and caregivers about how they can put outdoor classrooms and gardens in their schools and playgrounds.

## Tim Fleury's Forestry Events

### Information Workshops on New Hampshire Current Use Tax Rules

Learn How to Lower Your Property Tax

**Rural landowners of 10 or more acres can enroll their property in the state "Current Use" program and lower their property taxes. However, this protected property also has restrictions on its future use.**

These free workshops are sponsored and conducted by UNH Cooperative Extension. We will explain Current Use assessment and the different aspects of the program to help you decide if this land conservation opportunity is right for you. If your land is already in Current Use, this will be a good review of the regulations.

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008 7-9 PM**

at UNH Cooperative Extension of Merrimack County  
315 Daniel Webster Highway, Boscawen, NH

and

**Tuesday, March 4, 2008 7-9 PM**

at the Newbury Town Office  
Route 103, Newbury, NH

**For more information or directions to either workshop, visit our website: [ceinfo.unh.edu](http://ceinfo.unh.edu) or call 603-225-5505**

**Tim Fleury, Forestry Resource Educator, Ext. 325**

### Christmas Tree Pest Management Course

**Keene State College**

**March 19th and 20th**

Pesticide credits, CFEs and CEUs available. For more information contact Kristina Ferrare at UNH Cooperative Extension at (603) 862-3883 or email her at [kristina.ferrare@unh.edu](mailto:kristina.ferrare@unh.edu).

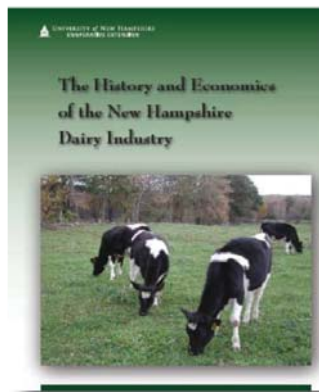
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## New Book Available Now!

### *“The History and Economics of the New Hampshire Dairy Industry”*

This new book documents the beginning of dairy farming in New Hampshire to the present day.

Fully illustrated with color photos of today's industry as well as antique pictures of yesteryears, the book was sponsored by Granite State Dairy Promotion at the request of the New England Family Dairy Farms Cooperative (NEFDPC) and published by UNH Cooperative Extension.



It contains the collective expertise of 10 authors and was edited by John Porter, Professor and Dairy Specialist, Emeritus, UNH Cooperative Extension, who also co-authored *“Preserving Old Barns.”*

**To order your copy on line, go to:** [extension.unh.edu](http://extension.unh.edu) and click on publications, or send a check for \$24.00 (\$19.95 plus shipping and handling), payable to: UNH Cooperative Extension and mail to: UNH Cooperative Extension Publications Center, Nesmith Hall, 131 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824.

### Permaculture (continued)

There are conferences being held all the time about gardening with children and there is no shortage of curriculum and books being written on the subject. While working with the Child Study and Development Center at UNH, I learned a multitude of things about this subject. The obstacle I was presented with was how to have a school garden with little or no volunteer help. My solution is by mimicking forest ecology. This is a gardening concept taught in permaculture. If the theory works, the gardens at the elementary school will

need very little tending while school is in session and when it is out for the season, it will only need someone to turn on the water once or twice in a drought situation. Time will tell. This year we will finish the planting of the garden and start the evaluation process. By the third year, we hope to be able to produce a publication we can pass on to all our schools. Exposing our children to agriculture and the environment is a noble and wonderful accomplishment. I am proud to be working with the Master Gardeners of Merrimack County on this project and the many others they undertake.

## Merrimack County Web Page Overhaul!!

**Check out the new look!** We've made our webpage more accessible with more information about twilight meetings, conferences, research projects and little goings-on around the county. In just one click, you'll be able to register for programs and even pay for registration or books with a credit card. Check out the podcasts and subscribe to have them downloaded for free as they come out monthly.

**Find us at:**  
<http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Merrimack/Merrimack.htm>

## Thank You to All

**We are grateful to all the nurseries that donated plants for the Hooksett Memorial School project and to all of the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents.**

**-Dot Perkins**



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**UNH Cooperative Extension**

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