

Grafton County Gap Session October 16, 2003

Group A

What are the needs of NH residents, businesses and organizations and how important are they?

- Workforce preparation for teenagers. [8 votes]
- Profitability/visibility of dairy industry (to increase revenues/profitability.) [6 votes]
- Natural resource management – water, soil, forests. [5 votes]
- Promoting medical careers – nurses/doctors (incentives, career planning, second career; finding doctors to serve the nursing homes.) [4 votes]
- Development of agri-tourism opportunities. (Link into tourism \$ coming into the state.) [3 votes]
- Outreach for schools. (Extension outreaching to schools and school districts - can't get enough.) [3 votes]
- Niche farming for open fields (encourage open spaces.) [3 votes]
- Energy conservation. [3 votes]
- The need to be involved in after school programming. [2 votes]
- Help develop entrepreneurial enterprises. (Focus on the economy – engage citizens to help develop some entrepreneurial enterprises.) [2 votes]
- Teen community profiles and forums. (What Extension does and the research, open forums on adolescent research.) [2 votes]
- Help elderly remain in own homes. [2 votes]
- Sustainable living (education). [2 votes]
- Promote volunteerism (in general and in nursing home...promote in schools.) [1 vote]
- Continued food safety training for restaurants, people and the community (part of the economy.) [1 vote]
- Connecting people with resources. (Resources available to the public...networking of information to the public.) [1 vote]
- Bridging generations. (Fostering the connection between the generations and different ideas.) [1 vote]
- Activities for youth. (Activities that students would want to come to that aren't "required" – things they would be interested in – informal vs. formal.)
- Better define and promote what services are available – (pest management, water management, etc.)
- More outreach for families. (Outreach to average person – 'regular' people don't know about Extension. Make for the whole family...make it approachable.)
- (Teaching people money management...home energy reduction, conservation, maintenance.)
- Land use planning (free and low cost.)
- Time management skills for general public – (training for average person.)
- Non-profit start-up assistance. (Mechanism to assist non-profit formation - how to become 501-3c, bylaws, organizations to help, etc.)

What should Extension do over the next two years and beyond to address these issues?

Work force preparation:

- Teach young people how to dress appropriately for the job situation.
- Find business needs. (Talk to businesses. Often a disconnect with what perceived and what actual need is.)
- Establish internship programs (so students can see what the job is like.)
- Coordinate job shadowing/mentoring (program).
- Career Fair/Day (at high schools.)
- How to fill out job applications.
- Exposing kids to many different career options.
- Mock interviews (to teach interviewing skills.)
- More opportunities for entrepreneurial options. (Small entrepreneurial projects for teens - how to run a small business; junior achievement model.)
- Basic skills like interviewing, resume writing, work ethic training.
- Help with college applications (collaborate with high school counselors to see what needs to be done, resources needed, training desired.)
- Supplement what schools do.
- Encourage (4-H'ers)/youth to take advantage of (workshop/training) opportunities available.
- Foster awareness of careers in demand within our community.
- Develop a liaison between the schools and community (to help foster the curriculum/education in workforce prep.)
- (Address ways to deal with apathy of students.)
- Involve high school alumni. (Connection with high school alumni to continue personal connections with higher education. Keep the brain drain into the community instead of out of the community.)
- Life skills/work ethic for parents. (Educate parents to role model important life skills in the employment field. Parents as teachers program in Sullivan County – focused on toddler parents.)

Profitability and Visibility of Dairy Farming

- General citizen education re: dairy (and of where their goods and services come from. Disconnect between people and how they get goods and products.)
- (Develop) branding (name recognition) – niche for NH.
- (Teach) business skills for farmers.
- Use county farm as educational model. Study options and Best Management Practice (BMP), i.e. organic milk. (Keep milk in state to process rather than send to Massachusetts; look at all the other states and programs and get information.)
- (Focus niche on “bottom line” of costs of farming - cost analysis, organic milk.)
- (Increase profitability of County Farm.)
- Explore ways to eliminate the “middle man” in dairy product production to increase dairy farmer profits.
- Better programs for marketing milk to increase consumption.

- (Discover the “niche” to make it more viable and profitable.)
- (Promote consumption of milk through food and nutrition education/promotion in schools and restaurants.)
- (Educate consumer through tours of dairy farms – promotion of milk drinking, help dairy farm set up for tourism.)

Natural Resource Management

- Continue and promote current Extension programs.
- Collaborate more with partners.
- Use educational process to keep/buy local.
- Better understanding of natural resources economic cycle.
- Outdoor education for kids in concert with schools. (Partner with schools to do more outdoor environmental education.)
- (Be more visible with what is already being done.)
- (Educate youth through collaborating with educators.)
- (Close the loop to educate people to the importance of keeping economic flow in the local infrastructure.)
- (Educate public on value-added products and how natural resources are the foundation of our economy’s infrastructure.)

What are the best ways for Extension to deliver educational programs and information?

- Fewer mailings. (Get too many mailings now – costs \$.)
- Through school programs.
- Continue seminars/workshops with partners.
- (Natural resources...continue to partner with other organizations.)
- Pic-Tel would be very good use of time. (Increase Pic-Tel use.)
- Utilize election day to distribute materials. (Displays/material distribution at election day sites.)
- Direct services – face-to-face and contact numbers. (Small group presentations and personal contact via email, phone, mail.)
- Volunteers promote Extension (word of mouth).
- Preparation time for learning kits. (See educational kits – hands-on ways to use the kits.)
- Talk with civic groups about Extension work.
- On site (hands-on) workshops